

Illinois Preview • Justine Wong-Orantes Volleyball Feature • Q & A - Devine Ozigbo

THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED

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WINNING HAS HUSKER PRIDE RUNNING HIGH

IT'S NEARLY THE END OF SEPTEMBER AND THE NEBRASKA FOOTBALL AND VOLLEYBALL TEAMS BOTH FIND THEMSELVES WITH UNDEFEATED RECORDS AND NATIONALLY RANKED AND THE WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM IS OFF TO ONE OF ITS BETTER STARTS ALSO.

Having been in college from 1996 to 2000 at Nebraska and an avid Husker sports follower before that while growing up in Columbus, it's like I am in a time warp. I honestly haven't seen Nebraska fans as excited about their athletic program as a whole since the 1990s.

The football team is a perfect 4-0 and back in the rankings for the first time since the end of the 2014 season.

Nebraska also recorded its first victory over a non-conference ranked opponent since 2001 two weeks ago against Oregon and on Saturday night avenged one of its seven losses from a season ago on the road at Northwestern.

The Huskers face three of the traditional bottom teams in the Big Ten Conference in their next three games, although Nebraska did find ways to lose at Illinois and Purdue last season.

Playing at Indiana on Oct. 15 after a bye week will be a new experience for the Huskers.

Still Nebraska should be favored in all those games and has a good chance of being 7-0 heading into a road contest at Wisconsin on Oct. 29.

Like that time warp that I spoke of earlier, the Huskers are looking like the Huskers of old running the ball 40+ times a game and using the success on the ground to set up the passing game.

A fourth-year starter under center, a talented corps of wide receivers and a young, but talented stable of running backs has given Nebraska coaches plenty of weapons to choose from and made it tough on opposing defenses to key on one element.

Defensively, Nebraska still has many questions, but it looks like the Blackshirts are getting better and not giving up as many big plays that have plagued them



for the last decade.

There still is that stretch at the end of the season at Wisconsin, Ohio State and Iowa as well as currently undefeated Maryland and Minnesota that will determine if this is NU's year to finally get back to its past glory, but 4-0 at this point is certainly better than a 3-1 or 2-2 record that many predicted.

The top-ranked Nebraska volleyball team was pushed to the limit on Saturday at East Lansing, Mich., dropping the first two sets 25-22, 25-23 to the No. 20 Spartans and being down 13-8 in the third set.

However, the Husker women behind Waverly native Olivia Boender fought back to win the final three set 25-20, 25-14, 16-14 and extend their winning streak to 27-consecutive matches.

"We drill so much and we just don't have those 'Oh, my gosh' moments and we just played Husker volleyball," said Boender, who came off the bench for eight kills. "It's serving tougher, passing sharper and digging deeper and confidence that we can win. I don't think anybody is relieved as much as we are just so happy and ready for the next match already."

What's great to see with the volleyball team is that many of the key players are in-state players. It's not a coincidence the Huskers are having success as these native Nebraskans take extra pride in representing their home state and college.

Nebraska coach John Cook felt like his team played its best match of the season at Michigan State.

"We had to play incredible," Cook said. "This is where you find out how much confidence they (Huskers) had, and it was a nice win on a great weekend."

Mikaela Foecke led NU with 17 kills, while teammate Kadie Rolfzen added 16 and Amber Rolfzen added eight each.

As for soccer fans, NU is off to an 8-4, 2-2 start in Big Ten Conference play.

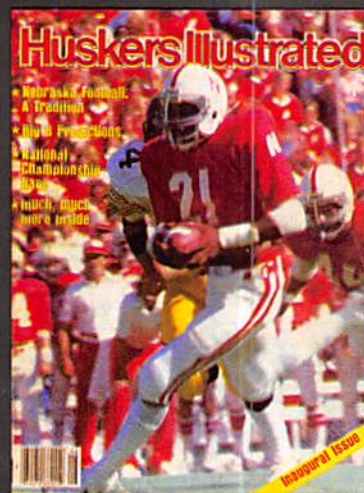
Let's hope the momentum continues into October for all these teams.

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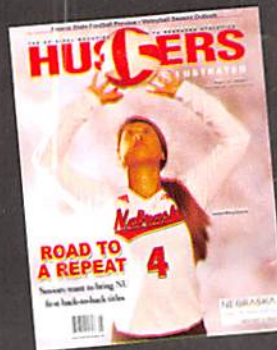
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The next Huskers Illustrated edition, featuring the Illinois recap and the Indiana preview will mail on Monday, Oct. 3.

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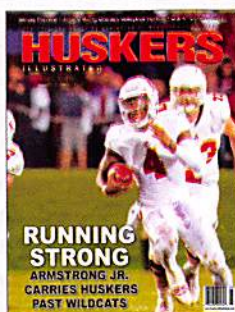
Q&A WITH DEVINE OZIGBO

BY KEVIN HOUCK

From Sachse, Texas, sophomore running back Devine Ozigbo didn't have any trouble adjusting to Nebraska winters or Big Ten football.



2016 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	TV/SCORE
	SEPT. 3	FRESNO STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	7P.M.	W, 43-10
	SEPT. 10	WYOMING	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11A.M.	W, 52-17
	SEPT. 17	OREGON	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30 P.M.	W, 35-32
	SEPT. 24	@NORTHWESTERN	EVANSTON, ILLINOIS	6:30 P.M.	W, 24-13
	OCT. 1	ILLINOIS	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30 P.M.	TBA
	OCT. 15	@INDIANA	BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA	2:30 P.M.	TBA
	OCT. 22	PURDUE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	TBA	TBA
	OCT. 29	@WISCONSIN	MADISON, WISCONSIN	6P.M.	ABC/ESPN
	NOV. 5	@OHIO STATE	COLUMBUS, OHIO	7P.M.	ABC/ESPN
	NOV. 12	MINNESOTA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	6:30 P.M.	BTN
	NOV. 19	MARYLAND	MEMORIAL STADIUM	TBA	TBA
	NOV. 25	@IOWA	IOWA CITY, IOWA	TBA	TBA
	ALL GAMES ARE CST				



ON THE COVER

Nebraska senior quarterback Tommy Armstrong Jr. used his arm and his legs to carry Nebraska past Northwestern 24-13 on Saturday night in Evanston, Ill. Armstrong ran for a career-high 132 yards on 13 carries and he also threw for 246 yards and another touchdown. Armstrong now has gained more than 9,000 total yards in his career at NU and trails only former quarterback Taylor Martinez in that category.

PHOTO BY MARK DAVIS/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



RECRUITING NOTEBOOK

BY MICHAEL SCHAEFER
RECRUITING EDITOR
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

Husker commit Hampton enjoys official visit to Lincoln



MICHAEL SCHAEFER/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Willie Hampton visited Lincoln on his official visit during the Oregon game.

Willie Hampton changed high schools heading into his senior year, but after spending a weekend in Lincoln the three-star linebacker has no plans of changing colleges. Hampton said he's as committed as possible to Nebraska.

Hampton, who committed to the Huskers back in March, saw Nebraska for the first time on an official visit for the Oregon weekend. The linebacker said the visit went really well and he left impressed by the people and the experiences.

"I loved everything about it," he said. "I obviously really liked the game and atmosphere. That was really, really nice. It was everything I was hoping and more. Nebraska was really, really nice."

"Nebraska's atmosphere

and crowd jumps out, but then again it doesn't, because I've been hearing about these fans and how hyped they get. Once I got there it was right there in front of my face. I could actually see it with my own eyes."

When Hampton committed it was because of his relationship with Trent Bray. This weekend he was able to spend time with Nebraska's staff and really get to know the coaches.

"All those coaches were cool," he said. "They were telling me about the school and everything. My mom really likes Nebraska now. She is mostly excited about the academics part of it. She loved the facilities and the academic support here."

Another big part of the visit for Hampton was get-

ting around other Nebraska commitments. The linebacker hadn't met any of these players before and now he knows a little about his future teammates, including fellow Floridan, Robert Porcher IV.

Hampton said just meeting other recruits helped enhance his overall experience.

"All the commitments were cool and even those guys not committed to Nebraska, they were cool too," he said. "I wasn't even thinking about peer recruiting or trying to get anyone to join up with Nebraska, we were just out there having fun."

Hampton will look to close out his senior year strongly with a good season for American Heritage. So far, things are going well for the defender who said he's starting to get more and

more comfortable in the new defense.

"I've adjusted really fast," he said. "I've been working with this defense and I know the plays and stuff. Really it's just going out there and playing football. I've made some improvements, details like technique wise and I think I'm more sound. Really, I'm using my hands more in coverage and I just feel like I've improved everything in general linebacker wise."

Hampton's visit experience has him ignoring new schools reaching out. The linebacker said Michigan has been poking around as of late, but Hampton considers the process done.

"I'm pretty well shut down," he said. **N**

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

STATE OF THE HUSKERS

Domann surprised by playing immediately



Read daily Husker reports from Michael Bruntz at HuskersIllustrated.com
Follow him on Twitter @michaelbruntz

Nebraska freshman safety JoJo Domann took note of the players his father Craig represented as an agent.

Many of those players moving on to the NFL had taken a year to redshirt, build strength and adjust to the challenges of college football. After having shoulder surgery midway through his senior year of high school, the younger Domann thought that was his destiny too – adjust to college, learn the playbook and hit the field in 2017.

Things changed for Domann, however, when he learned during the last week of fall camp that he would have a prominent role on special teams.

“I thought I was taking a realistic approach by thinking I was going to redshirt and at the same time coming to practice and giving it my all to learn the defense,” Domann said. “When they told me I wasn’t redshirting, I was really surprised and called my dad and I was like, ‘what is going on?’ because ever since I hurt my shoulder, I was like, there’s no doubt, I’m going to redshirt. When I didn’t, I wasn’t mentally prepared. Each and every week, I’m just learning my job so I can play well during games.”

“I had to go to coach. We talked to him about it. I had to be the last person to know. The very last person. Banker and I didn’t really talk about it. I was going with the flow and he was coaching.”

Domann has a role on all four special teams units and is also rotating in with the second team defense during practices. Domann said that he and fellow freshmen Lamar Jackson and Tre Bryant had extra meetings with special teams coordinator Bruce Read to get up to speed on their responsibilities.

No meeting could have prepared Domann for his first appearance as a Husker, however. Running out for his first action against Fresno State, Domann said he was taken aback by Memorial Stadium.

“It’s been pretty overwhelming,” Domann said. “The first time I was on the field, I remember being astounded by everything

going on around me. I’m just trying to take it all in and do my job. There’s no way you can prepare yourself. They told me what to expect, but once you’re out there, it’s pretty special out there. You don’t know what’s going on. You’re just trying to remember what your job is.”

Getting special teams experience is one way to take the shock out of playing college football for true freshmen. It helped defensive backs Aaron Williams and Antonio Reed last year to be able to transition into bigger roles as sophomores.

The biggest transition for Domann has been leaving the field. He starred as a do-everything athlete at Pine Creek High School in Colorado Springs, Colorado,

playing offense, defense, returning punts while also handling punting and kicking duties.

The only time Domann would leave the field was when Pine Creek would return a kickoff.

“It was definitely different,” Domann said. “I’m used to coming to the sidelines, getting a swig of water and going back out. Now, I’m going out, going balls to the wall for 30 seconds and then coming off for five minutes then I do that again and again. You just have to have that switch to turn it back when you’re on the field.”

“I was always on the kicking end of special teams, so the coverage and blocking was a bit of a changeup. I’ve

adjusted to it well and I’m just trying to improve every single practice so I’m better for game day.”

Domann is one of 11 players who have seen the field as true freshmen under head coach Mike Riley thus far, and the second-year Husker head coach hasn’t shown a hesitancy to play newcomers if there is a need, and they’re ready.

Though Domann initially figured he would sit this season out, he didn’t turn down the chance to play when it was offered. He’s hoping it pays off down the road, too.

“When I came in here and had a chance to play, no way I was going to pass that up,” Domann said. “I’m just doing whatever they need.”

“I thought I was taking a realistic approach by thinking I was going to redshirt and at the same time coming to practice and giving it my all to learn the defense. I was really surprised and called my dad and I was like, ‘What is going on?’ because ever since I hurt my shoulder, I was like there’s no doubt I’m going to redshirt. When I didn’t I wasn’t mentally prepared.”

**JoJo Domann
NU freshman safety**



10 questions

with **Devine Ozigbo**

Story by Kevin Houck • Photo by Mitch Otto, Head Shot Courtesy of NU Media Relations, Action Photos by Joe Mixan and Ken Juszyk

Q: Who do you model yourself after?

A: It would probably be my older brother. I definitely think he has the characteristics that any man should want and I definitely want to be like that. And then football wise, I think I would go with Le'Veon Bell hopefully and try to be like him.

Q: If you had to live without one of your five senses, which one would you pick?

A: You're already putting me on the spot but I think I would go hearing.... I have no idea (laughing).

Q: If Devine Ozigbo was out in the wild, what animal would you want to be and why?

A: A lion. They're the king of the jungle. A lion would definitely fit me.

Q: Did it take time to adjust to Nebraska winters?

A: Not really because in North Texas it kind of gets cold and I am originally from Boston so I was used to extreme colds.

Q: Do you have a pregame ritual of some sorts?

A: My pregame ritual is just praying. Praying and listen to music to just get my mind right. I usually listen to hip-hop but right before I go out I usually have a calmer song to focus me in.

Q: Who is your all-time favorite superhero?

A: Wolverine because he is indestructible. I want to model that mindset.

Q: How did you get into advertising/public relations as your major?

A: I feel like I can come up with some good ideas. I can put two-and-two together, have fun with concepts and things like that. Who doesn't like to sell things was my idea.

Q: What's your favorite television series of all-time?

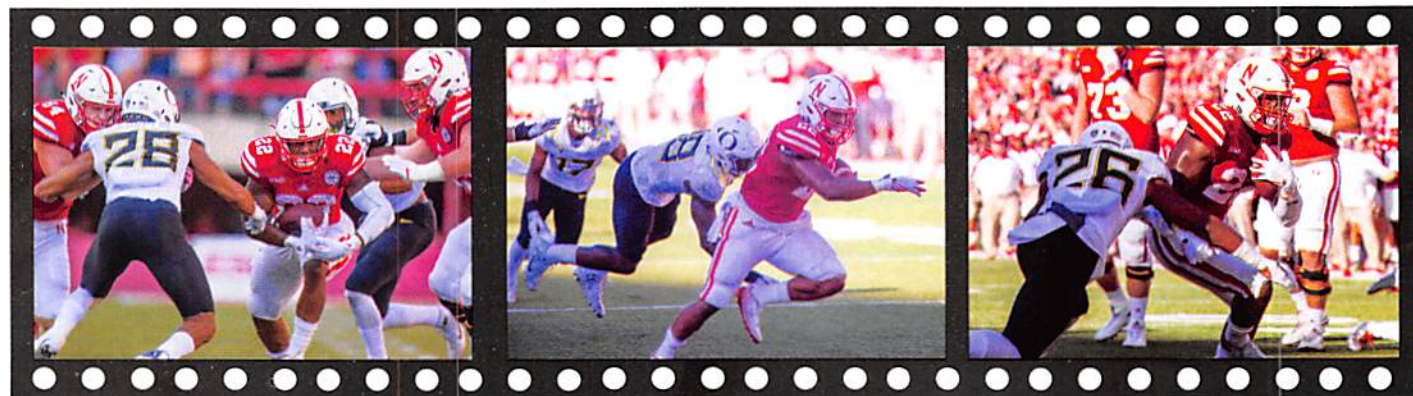
A: Dragon Ball Z is my favorite TV show. Growing up as a kid that was one of the only reasons I wanted to get big. I was like if they can do it then I could do it. I just loved that show.

Q: What's Sachse, Texas, like?

A: It's pretty cool. It is kind of has some aspects like Lincoln. It's a rural area but it's kind of developing city. So it's been pretty nice.

Q: Who on the team is always talking up a storm?

A: DaiShon Neal. He's always talking but he's really cool and he's funny.







Brandon Reilly carries a Northwestern defender with him after making his only catch in the second half.

Huskers grind out first road win

Armstrong runs, passes NU to a 4-0 start

Story by Kevin Houck • Photos by Mark Davis

Despite shooting itself in the foot, Nebraska found a way to pull out a 24-13 victory over Northwestern in its first conference game and first road game of the 2016 season Saturday night at Ryan Field in Evanston, Ill.

The Huskers fumbled twice at the goal line in the first half but still managed to pile up 556 yards of total offense. Quarterback Tommy Armstrong accounted for 378 yards – 246 passing and a career-high 132 rushing yards.

“We talk all the time about about not putting the ball at risk unless it’s a fourth down play,” Nebraska head coach Mike Riley said. “There’s not need to put the ball at risk.”

The first fumble happened just three plays into the game. Running back Terrell Newby broke a 49-yard run down the right sideline and lost control of the ball as he dove for the goal line and the ball went out the back of the endzone for a touchback.

Three drives later the Wildcats were on the move. Northwestern drove the ball to the Huskers 10-yard line setting up a 27-yard field goal but the kick went wide right.

The Huskers responded with a 13-play, 74-yard drive ending in a 23-yard field goal by Drew Brown with 13:40 left in the second quarter.

Four minutes later, Northwestern quarterback Clayton Thorson took the quarterback run through the ride side for a 42-yard touchdown to give the Wildcats a 7-3 lead.

Later in the second quarter, Armstrong took a keeper himself for 37 yards to the Wildcats 2-yard line. Yet another chance for Nebraska to score but on the next play running back Devine Ozigbo was stopped at the goal line and had the ball stripped. A Northwestern player recovered in the end zone for another touchback.

After a three-and-out by the Blackshirts, Armstrong connected with wide receiver Alonzo Moore for a 59-yard catch along the right sideline.

“I thought one of the major plays in the game was the double move by Alonzo Moore,” Riley said.

The catch set the Huskers up at the Wildcats four-yard line with just over two minutes left in the first half.

This time the Huskers would capitalize in the redzone. On the next play, Newby ran around the right side, stumbled past a tackler and spun his way into the endzone for the touchdown.

Northwestern took over with 1:34 left in the first half. They quickly drove the ball down to the Huskers 26-yard line but back-to-back sacks by defensive tackle Kevin Maurice forced the Wildcats to attempt a 40-yard field goal.

“It felt good,” Maurice said. “Coach Parrella has really been harping us on really getting after the pass rush. Eventually it all paid off this week.”

Following a Nebraska timeout, Northwestern faked the field goal and was stopped short. Nebraska took a knee and headed into halftime with a 10-7 lead.



Tommy Armstrong Jr. races down the field thanks to blocks from Tanner Farmer (63) and Sam Hahn (73).

On Northwestern's opening drive of the second half, they marched into Nebraska's redzone. Defensive back Aaron Williams ended Northwestern's scoring threat by intercepting Thorson in the end zone.

"He was out of shape on the route really and just burst back in because he knew off of that bend on the outside with that slot game he was going to push back into the seam," defensive coordinator Mark Banker said. "That comes from film study."

Nebraska added to its lead after the interception when Armstrong found tight end Cethan Carter in the back of the end zone for a four-yard touchdown to extend the Huskers' lead to 17-7.

The two-possession lead didn't last long though as Northwestern quickly responded.

After a Nebraska penalty, the Wildcats started their drive at mid-field. The drive ended with Thorson finding wide receiver Austin Carr over the middle for a 24-yard touchdown. Northwestern missed the extra point to make the score 17-13.

After finally notching his first reception of the night on the ensuing drive, wide receiver Jordan Westerkamp took a reverse around the left side for a 10-yard touchdown with 3:06 left in the third quarter to extend Nebraska's lead to 24-13. A reverse running play by Carter also was a big play on the drive.

"They were definitely doing a good job with run defense up the middle and the opportunity to hit an edge play felt pretty good," Riley said. "Sometimes it's a counter punch you fool somebody with and they really lost their eyes on that play."

Northwestern couldn't put together a complete drive in the fourth quarter to attempt a comeback.

Cornerback Josh Kalu picked off Thorson with under two minutes left in the game to seal the victory for the Huskers.

"You have to make plays offensively and defensively and I think we ended up doing that," Riley said. "I think we might of taken a back seat after not scoring early in the game. Those guys kept hanging around."



Terrell Newby runs through the Northwestern defense, but he fumbled while trying to cross the goal line.



Kevin Maurice came into the Northwestern game with 1.5 sacks for his career, but made two key sacks against the Wildcats.

Maurice steps up with back-to-back sacks

STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTO BY JOE MIXAN

Nebraska defensive tackle Kevin Maurice made a major impact in a relatively short amount of time during the Cornhuskers' 24-13 victory over Northwestern at Ryan Field.

With the Wildcats trailing 10-7 and driving to the Nebraska 26-yard line late in the second quarter, Maurice sacked Northwestern quarterback Clayton Thorson for 6-yard losses on back-to-back plays. Even after Thorson completed a 15-yard pass to Austin Carr at the Huskers' 23-yard line, the Huskers snuffed out a fake field-goal try with 12 seconds left before intermission and maintained a three-point advantage.

"It was real big, especially because they were driving," said Maurice, whose two sacks on consecutive plays eclipsed his previous career total of 1.5 sacks.

"Just to get those sacks to kind of push them back – and they faked it on fourth – I was really excited about it."

So was Nebraska defensive coordinator Mark Banker.

"Any time the quarterback goes down, that's the best pass coverage you have," Banker said. "I was happy to see that."

Maurice's two sacks helped Nebraska finish with four sacks in the game, tying its season high. The Huskers also had four sacks in the season opener against Fresno State.

Maurice finished with three solo tackles as Nebraska held Northwestern to 13 points and 388 total yards. He now has seven total tackles for the season.

Maurice isn't new to Nebraska's program, but Banker said the 6-foot-3, 300-pound senior is finally getting his opportunity now. Playing behind the likes of Maliek Collins and Vincent Valentine

last season, Maurice's best showing was an eight-tackle performance last season against Illinois.

"He did a nice job there," Banker said. "He has pass rush ability inside, so that's great to see him do that."

Even with Nebraska off to a 4-0 start, Maurice said the Huskers need to focus on improvement.

The Huskers permitted two Northwestern touchdown drives as the Wildcats opened the scoring with Thorson's 42-yard scoring run and later saw the Wildcats' quarterback toss a 24-yard scoring pass to Austin Carr that cut their deficit to 17-13 with 7:29 remaining in the third quarter.

"We're winning right now and that's a good feeling," Maurice said. "At the same time, we just want to continue to play better. As long as we improve each game, that will be good."



Devine Ozigbo picks up blocks from Nick Gates and Sam Hahn during Saturday's win over Northwestern.

Huskers stick with strong running attack

STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTO BY MARK DAVIS

It's becoming apparent that Nebraska's commitment to the running game isn't just a phase. Dating back to last year's victory over UCLA in the Foster Farms Bowl, the Cornhuskers have now had more running plays than passes in each of their last five games and are 5-0 in that span.

That included a 24-13 victory over Northwestern in the Big Ten Conference opener that saw Nebraska rush for 310 yards on 47 attempts on its way to piling up 556 yards of total offense.

"I think it has to remain a part of our identity," Nebraska coach Mike Riley said of his team's ground game. "I think that as the team grows in this feeling and sees it as something that we have to do and is real important in our success, it's something

that can grow."

Criticized last year during the regular season for being hesitant to rely on the running game, it appears Riley and Nebraska offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf have changed their tune. The Huskers have kept it on the ground a total of 51, 43, 47 and 47 times on their way to a 4-0 start in 2016.

To that end, Nebraska's Tommy Armstrong Jr. continued his development as true dual-threat quarterback against the Wildcats.

Not only did the senior signal-caller have another efficient passing performance, completing 18-of-29 attempts for 246 yards with a touchdown and no interceptions, but he also rushed for a career-high 132 yards on 13 attempts.

"Honestly, that's what we kind of game-

planned for," Armstrong said of his success running the ball. "We knew that they had some athletic D-linemen and we wanted to establish a run game in order to open up the passes. We did that."

Riley said the Huskers have certainly fine-tuned the quarterback running game since last season. A year ago at this point in the season, Armstrong and Langsdorf were still getting to know each other and Armstrong was attempting to learn a new offense.

"It is different for sure and I think through us practicing it with this team and frankly us (coaches) learning more and more about it, it's helping for sure," Riley said. "I think that we got a good picture of what it could look like in the bowl game and so we've kind of just worked on it since then."

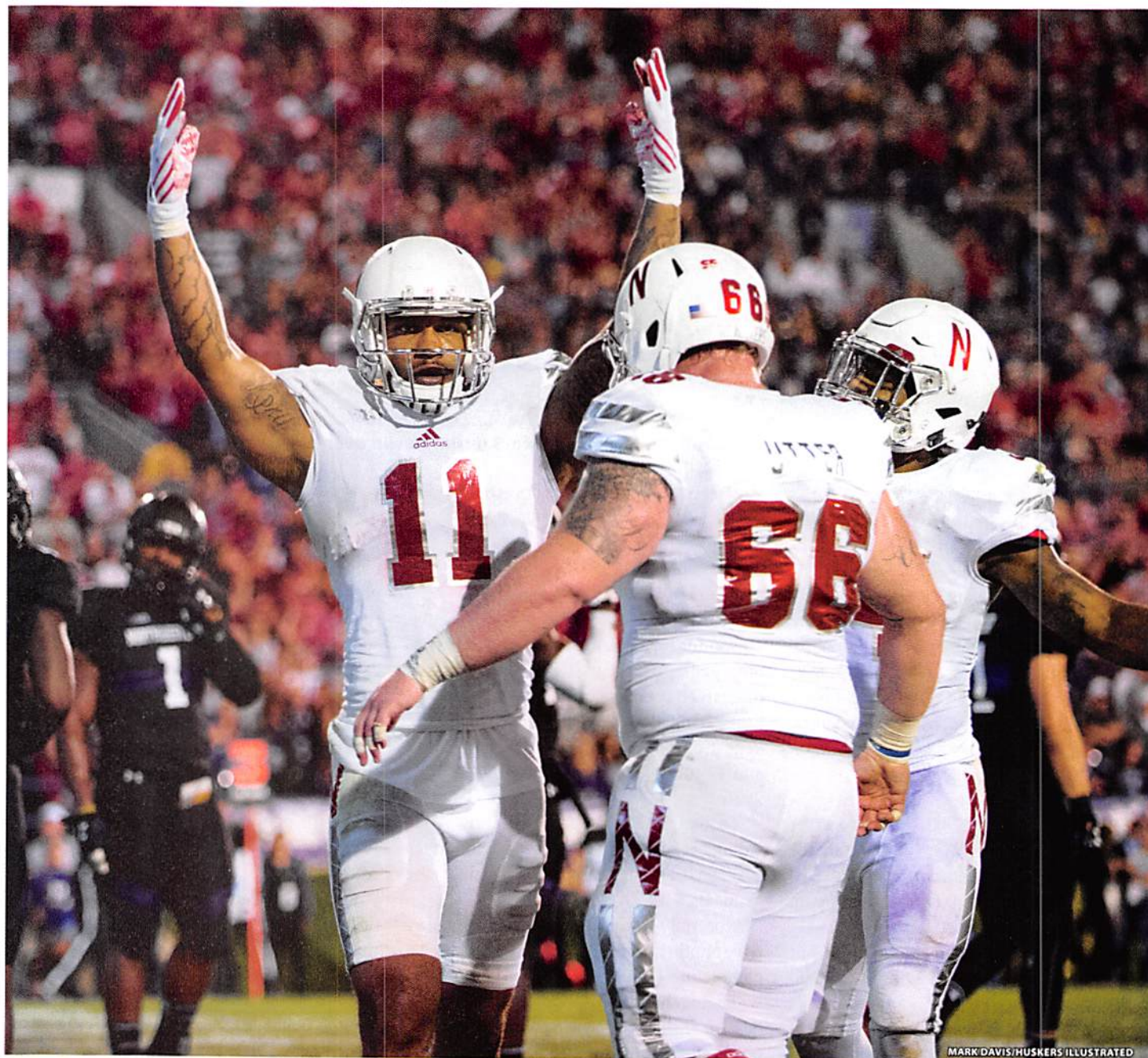
Nebraska 24, Northwestern 13

Sept. 24, 2016 at Ryan Field in Evanston, Illinois

Attendance: 40,284

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	Total
Nebraska	0	10	14	0	24
Northwestern	0	7	6	0	13

Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	V-H
2nd	13:40	NEB - Brown, Drew 23 yd field goal, 13-74 5:47	3 - 0
	09:09	NU - Thorson, C. 42 yd run (Mitchell, Jack kick), 1-42 0:09	3 - 7
	01:41	NEB - Newby, Terrell 4 yd run (Brown, Drew kick), 2-63 0:42	10 - 7
3rd	09:00	NEB - Carter, Cethan 4 yd pass from Armstrong Jr. (Brown, Drew kick), 10-80 3:52	17 - 7
	07:29	NU - Carr, Austin 24 yd pass from Thorson, C. (Mitchell, Jack kick failed), 5-52 1:24	17 - 13
	03:06	NEB - Westerkamp, J. 10 yd run (Brown, Drew kick), 9-79 4:17	24 - 13



Cethan Carter celebrates his touchdown catch from Tommy Armstrong Jr. with center Dylan Utter.

Team Statistics



Stanley Morgan Jr. runs with the ball after making one of his career-high tying four catches against Northwestern.



NU defensive lineman Mick Stoltenberg pressures Northwestern quarterback Clayton Thorson.

	NEB	NU
FIRST DOWNS	26	23
Rushing	12	9
Passing	12	12
Penalty	2	2
NET YARDS RUSHING	310	137
Rushing Attempts	47	32
Average Per Rush	6.6	4.3
Rushing Touchdowns	2	1
Yards Gained Rushing	329	159
Yards Lost Rushing	19	22
NET YARDS PASSING	246	251
Completions-Attempts-Int	18-29-0	25-38-2
Average Per Attempt	8.5	6.6
Average Per Completion	13.7	10.0
Passing Touchdowns	1	1
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	556	388
Total offense plays	76	70
Average Gain Per Play	7.3	5.5
Fumbles: Number-Lost	2-2	0-0
Penalties: Number-Yards	4-60	4-36
PUNTS-YARDS	5-193	6-243
Average Yards Per Punt	38.6	40.5
Net Yards Per Punt	29.6	37.2
Inside 20	1	2
50+ Yards	0	1
Touchbacks	2	1
Fair catch	0	3
KICKOFFS-YARDS	5-318	3-195
Average Yards Per Kickoff	63.6	65.0
Net Yards Per Kickoff	36.8	41.3
Touchbacks	2	2
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	0-0-0	1-5-0
Average Per Return	0.0	5.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	1-21-0	3-84-0
Average Per Return	21.0	28.0
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	2-0-0	0-0-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	35:23	24:37
1st Quarter	9:21	5:39
2nd Quarter	7:50	7:10
3rd Quarter	8:18	6:42
4th Quarter	9:54	5:06
Third-Down Conversions	7 of 14	5 of 14
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 1	0 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	4-5	0-1
Touchdowns	3-5	0-1
Field goals	1-5	0-1
Sacks By: Number-Yards	4-17	0-0
PAT Kicks	3-3	1-2



MARK DAVIS/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



MARK DAVIS/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Above: De'Mornay Pierson-El makes a move after catching a pass against Northwestern. Left: Offensive lineman Tanner Farmer gets helped off the field.

Individual Statistics

Nebraska

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Armstrong Jr.	13	135	3	132	0	37	10.2
Newby, Terrell	10	71	2	69	1	49	6.9
Wilbon, Mikale	6	55	0	55	0	32	9.2
Ozigbo, Devine	13	42	1	41	0	15	3.2
Carter, Cethan	1	16	0	16	0	16	16.0
Westerkamp, J.	1	10	0	10	1	10	10.0
TEAM	3	0	13	-13	0	0	-4.3
Totals	47	329	19	310	2	49	6.6

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Armstrong Jr.	18-29-0	246	1	59	0
Totals	18-29-0	246	1	59	0

Receiving	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Morgan Jr., S.	4	33	0	10
Moore, Alonzo	3	72	0	59
Pierson-El, D.	3	31	0	12
Carter, Cethan	2	31	1	27
Newby, Terrell	2	14	0	14
Reilly, Brandon	1	35	0	35
Westerkamp, J.	1	13	0	13
Cotton, Sam	1	11	0	11
Wilbon, Mikale	1	6	0	6
Totals	18	246	1	59

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Lightbourn, C.	5	193	38.6	47	1	2
Totals	5	193	38.6	47	1	2

Returns	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Kalu, Joshua	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Bryant, Tre	0	0	0	1	21	21	0	0	0
Williams, Aaron	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Totals	0	0	0	1	21	21	2	0	0

Field goals	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result
Brown, Drew	2nd	13:40	23 yards	Good

Kickoffs	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Brown, Drew	5	318	63.6	2	0

All-purpose	Run	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
Armstrong Jr.	132	0	0	0	0	132
Newby, Terrell	69	14	0	0	0	83
Moore, Alonzo	0	72	0	0	0	72
Wilbon, Mikale	55	6	0	0	0	61

Northwestern

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Jackson, Justin	20	84	5	79	0	13	4.0
Thorson, C.	10	60	17	43	1	42	4.3
Moten IV, John	1	11	0	11	0	11	11.0
Vault, Solomon	1	4	0	4	0	4	4.0
Totals	32	159	22	137	1	42	4.3

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Thorson, C.	24-37-2	249	1	24	4
Mitchell, Jack	1-1-0	2	0	2	0
Totals	25-38-2	251	1	24	4

Receiving	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Carr, Austin	8	109	1	24
Nagel, Flynn	5	48	0	17
Jackson, Justin	3	18	0	12
Vault, Solomon	2	17	0	13
Dickerson, G.	1	14	0	14
Wilson, Macan	1	11	0	11
Moten IV, John	1	9	0	9
Skowronek, Ben	1	8	0	8
Scanlan, Andrew	1	8	0	8
Fessler, C.	1	7	0	7
Micucci, Matt	1	2	0	2
Totals	25	251	1	24

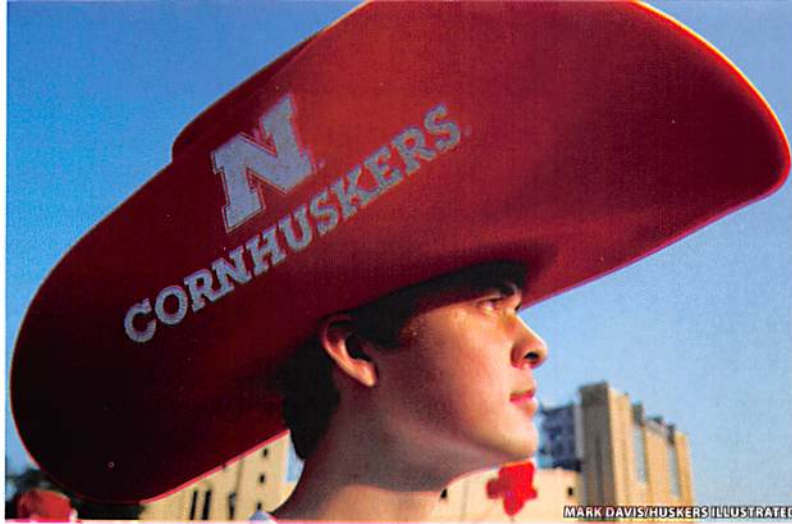
Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Niswander, H.	6	243	40.5	50	2	1
Totals	6	243	40.5	50	2	1

Returns	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Nagel, Flynn	1	5	5	1	27	27	0	0	0
Vault, Solomon	0	0	0	2	57	35	0	0	0
Totals	1	5	5	3	84	35	0	0	0

Field goals	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result
Mitchell, Jack	1st	04:27	27 yards	Missed

Kickoffs	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Mitchell, Jack	3	195	65.0	2	0

All-purpose	Run	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
Carr, Austin	0	109	0	0	0	109
Jackson, Justin	79	18	0	0	0	97
Nagel, Flynn	0	48	27	5	0	80
Vault, Solomon	4	17	57	0	0	78



Left: Jack Westerkamp, cousin of Nebraska wide receiver Jordan Westerkamp, tailgates before the game. Above: Chris Behmer grills some corn on the cob in front of Ryan Field before the game.

Defensive Statistics

# Nebraska	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
26 Williams, K.	5	3	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 Gerry, Nathan	5	3	8	0.5-1	2-2	-	-	-	2	-	-
5 Young II, D.	6	1	7	-	1-1	-	-	-	1	-	-
24 Williams, Aaron	5	2	7	-	1-2	-	-	1-0	1	-	-
10 Kalu, Joshua	5	2	7	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-
52 Banderas, Josh	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
8A Jones, Chris	3	0	3	1.0-2	2-3	-	-	-	2	-	-
55 Maurice, Kevin	3	0	3	2.0-12	2-12	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 Reed, Antonio	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
88 Dzuris, Ross	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
49 Weber, Chris	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
44 Stoltenberg, M.	1	1	2	0.5-2	2-3	-	-	-	-	-	-
91 Akinmoladun, F.	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1A Rose-Ivey, M.	0	2	2	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-
1B Jackson, Lamar	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
41 McNitt, Luke	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13 Domann, JoJo	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 Neal, DaiShon	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
96 Davis, Carlos	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals	44	22	66	4.0-17	11-23	0	0-0	2-0	6	0	2

# Northwestern	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
16 Igwebuike, G.	13	2	15	-	2-3	1	-	-	-	-	-
41 McGee, Jared	7	3	10	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
51 Prater, Jaylen	1	7	8	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	1
29 Williams, Trae	6	0	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
67 Lancaster, T.	3	3	6	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-
32 Hall, Nate	2	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24 Hartage, Montre	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 Walker, Jr., A.	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
90 Robbins, C.J.	1	2	3	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
56 Washington, X.	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
42 Jones, Joseph	0	3	3	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-
97 Gaziano, Joe	1	1	2	-	1-11	-	-	-	-	-	-
93 Kuhar, Greg	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
53 Queiro, Cameron	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 Fox, Nathan	0	1	1	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-
7 Odenigbo, I.	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 Walsh, Brett	0	1	1	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-
92 Wyatt, Fred	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
95 Miller, Alex	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
T TEAM	0	0	0	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-
Totals	42	34	76	0.0-0	9-17	1	2-0	0-0	2	0	2

RUSHING OFFENSE: The only thing that kept this from being an A were the two fumbles around the goal line that cost Nebraska 14 points. Other than that, Nebraska's running game answered the bell against Northwestern in a physical Big Ten showdown. Keep in mind that Northwestern held Nebraska to fewer than 100 yards last year in Lincoln, and in Saturday's win, the Huskers averaged 6.6 yards per carry. Nebraska did a nice job of mixing things between Tommy Armstrong, Terrell Newby and Mikale Wilbon. — Michael Bruntz

A-

PASSING OFFENSE: The Huskers were effective when they needed to be in the passing game, totaling 246 yards on the arm of Tommy Armstrong and not allowing a sack. Nebraska picked its spots all evening, taking what Northwestern would give it on the outside, and then hitting a deep pass to Alonzo Moore that helped to set up a score. Armstrong was 18-for-29 and nine different players caught passes. — Michael Bruntz

A

RUSHING DEFENSE: The Huskers used Northwestern quarterback Clayton Thorson's performance in 2015 as motivation this week, and though Thorson did have a 42-yard touchdown run in the contest, Nebraska's run defense made running back Justin Jackson earn his yards. Jackson finished with 20 carries for 79 yards in the game and the Huskers were able to match Northwestern's physicality. — Michael Bruntz

B+

PASSING DEFENSE: Thorson came into the game as a sub-50 percent passer, but he got his yards and completions against Nebraska's secondary in the game. Thorson finished 24-for-37 for 249 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions. Nebraska was able to push the pocket a bit later in the game, but for the most part, Thorson was able to make throws with relatively little harassment. Nebraska's defense was put in odd situations all night, so you have to give credit to the Huskers for bowing up and keeping Northwestern out of the end zone. — Michael Bruntz

B-

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS: We'll give Nebraska's special teams units a plus for sniffing out a fake field goal attempt right before halftime that helped take air out of Northwestern's sails. Beyond that, it was a quiet evening for the Husker special teams units. Nebraska didn't manage to get a punt return, and there were yards to be had against Nebraska's kickoff units. The big blemish on the night came in the second half when the Huskers had to burn a timeout when only seven players were on the field for a punt return. — Michael Bruntz

C+

Quoting NU defensive coordinator Mark Banker on words to defense after turnovers:



"We just told them, 'Hey, this is just like a sudden change. Those were supposed to be points. They weren't, so let's pin 'em down here. We got good field position — let's not let them flip the field on us — and whatever we do, get the ball back.'"

Game Notes

OPPONENT'S KICKING GAME HELPS HUSKERS ONCE AGAIN

For the fourth game in a row, Nebraska's opponent failed on special teams. Northwestern missed a field goal in the first quarter to take the lead, missed an extra-point and failed to convert a fake field goal.

In game against Fresno State and Wyoming, both teams missed a field goal in the first quarter to take a lead on Nebraska. Against Oregon, the Ducks went one of four on two-points conversions instead of kicking the extra point.

Meanwhile, NU kicker Drew Brown made his 13-consecutive field goal during the game. The little things that haunted Nebraska last season have helped them jump out to a 4-0 record this season.

ARMSTRONG PASSES 9,000 YARDS OF TOTAL OFFENSE IN CAREER

With his 246 passing yards and 132 rushing yards, Tommy Armstrong Jr. increased his career total to 9,210 yards of total offense. He is the second Husker with at least 9,000 career yards of total offense. He trails Taylor Martinez's school-record 10,233 career yards of total offense. In addition, Armstrong topped 300 yards of total offense for the 12th time in his career extending his own Nebraska record.

THREE HUSKERS KNEEL DURING SINGING OF NATIONAL ANTHEM

Michael Rose-Ivey, Mohamed Barry and DaiShon Neal kneeled together during the National Anthem. Rose-Ivey consulted Head Coach Mike Riley Friday night about his intentions to kneel during the anthem and talked to the team after walkthroughs.

Riley didn't know the other two players intended to kneel also but said he fully supports their decision.

"This is a choice they have made for personal reasons and that's the beautiful thing about the United States that they can do that," Riley said.

Also during the National Anthem, Zack Darlington, Drew Brown, Sam Hahn and Nick Gates helped hold the American Flag during the National Anthem due not having enough people to hold the flag.

ILLINOIS NATIVES HELP PUSH NEBRASKA OFFENSE

Jordan Westerkamp had over 200 family members in attendance for his last collegiate game in Illinois.

"I had my own little cheering section out there," Westerkamp said. "I didn't realize how many people it was until I got over there. That was awesome. I am very lucky to have all that support."

Westerkamp's only reception of 13 yards in the third quarter extended his streak to 30-consecutive



Above: Drew Brown made his 13th-consecutive field goal for the Huskers in the first half. Below left: Several Nebraska players helped hold the large flag while several other kneeled in protest. Below right: Illinois native Jordan Westekamp salutes the fans.



games with at least one reception. He also added 10-yard rushing touchdown.

The Lombard, Ill. native night could have been bigger. Twice in the redzone, Westekamp was open in the back of the endzone but Armstrong overthrew him both times.

"Those things happen," Westekamp said. "Tommy played a hell of a game. It's no issue. We came and fought back."

Running back Mikale Wilbon took advantage of his opportunities with about 25

family members in the stands. The Chicago native's number was called after Terrell Newby and Devine Ozigbo both fumbled at the goal line in the first half.

Head coach Mike Riley said the reason for Wilbon's extra playing time had nothing to do with him being from Chicago.

"It wasn't a sympathy thing that's for sure," Riley said. "He's earned some playing time and he's a good player. Mikale has worked his way into that position so we're giving him some turns with certain

personnel groups."

Wilbon had six carries for 55 yards which are both career highs.

"It meant a lot," Wilbon said. "I appreciated the coaches giving me an opportunity and I tried to make the best of my opportunities."

Offensive guard Tanner Farmer, from Highland, Ill., was a key contributor to Nebraska's 310 yards rushing but injured his ankle in the second half and did not return.

Nebraska 24, Northwestern 13



PHOTOS BY MARK DAVIS/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Clockwise from above: Stanley Morgan Jr. runs with the ball after making a catch. Tommy Armstrong Jr. looks downfield on his way to 132 rushing yards. The ball pops out as Devine Ozigbo tries to score in the second quarter. Terrell Newby begins to lose the ball as he dives toward the goal line. Cethan Carter celebrates his touchdown catch. Jordan Westerkamp leaps into the endzone.



2 Minute Drill

'LOCKDOWN U'
SECONDARY LIVING UP
TO NEW MENTALITY



AARON WILLIAMS (24) AND
KIERON WILLIAMS (26)

JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Compiled by Kevin Houck

The Husker secondary was destined to take a step forward this season after ranking 122nd out of 128 in the country in pass yards allowed per game last season. They also only accounted for 10 interceptions last season.

The struggles were to be expected with the defense switching to an opposite style schematically. Cornerbacks are often left in lone man-to-man coverage on the outside. Something the Blackshirts weren't recruited to do in Peli-ni's system.

So this season after a year in the new Quarters defense, defensive backs coach Brian Stewart wanted to move past last season with a new mentality and new motto.

Stewart made customized t-shirts with the motto "Lock-down U" across the chest during fall camp. A boost of confidence and turnaround that the secondary has lived up to so far.

The Blackshirt defense has emerged as one of college football's best defenses against the pass through the first three games.

The secondary has only allowed 192.7 passing yards per game and ranks second in the BIG 10 in total defense.

"It's just a mentality," said junior safety Kieron Williams. "You no longer just represent yourself, you represent a group."

Not to mention they already have over half the interceptions they did last season. Their seven interceptions rank fourth in the nation.

The secondary is not only taking the mentality to the field but in the classroom also.

"So if you can carry that into game day, carry that into practice and even into class, and you know that the assignments you have to do in class to get your grades to be what they're supposed to be so you can play, that's the 'Lock-down' mentality," Williams said. "It's not just on the field, it's off the field as well. I think once you have an identity as a group, that allows the group to elevate."

But the mentality has different meaning for the safeties than it does for the cornerbacks said safety Nate Gerry.

"I know for Chris (Jones) and guys like them, they're cover guys, so being able to go man every play, that's 'lock-down' for them," Gerry said. "But for me and Antonio (Reed) and guys like that who don't play much man, our 'lockdown' is just being focused and being prepared, being able to get lined up every play and be the defensive quarterback for us."

Then came the true test with two-minutes left against Oregon. Nebraska's pass defense allowed big plays late in games, attributing to their five losses in the closing minutes last season.

On the Ducks' last possession of the game down by three, Oregon moved the ball at will to midfield.

On second and 20, quarterback Dakota Prukop broke out from a closing pocket, rolled out his right and threw the ball deep towards the Husker endzone.

Right then glimpses of last year filled Memorial Stadium. A Oregon wide receiver was striding a step ahead of

Continued on Pg. 26

HI'S TOP 5

FORMER HUSKERS
WHO ARE NOW NFL
ASSISTANT COACHES

TOM RATHMAN



COURTESY OF SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

- 1 Daniel Bullocks – Jacksonville Jaguars**
Assistant Defensive Backs Coach
- 2 Doug Colman – Houston Texans**
Assistant Special Teams Coach/
Linebacker Assistant
- 3 Monte Kiffin – Jacksonville Jaguars**
Defensive Assistant
- 4 Carlos Polk – Tampa Bay Buccaneers**
Assistant Special Teams Coach
- 5 Tom Rathman – San Francisco 49ers**
Running Backs Coach



Tommy Armstrong had a career-best rushing day against Northwestern on Saturday night. Armstrong rushed for 132 yards, which bettered



MARK DAVIS/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

his previous high of 131 against McNeese State in 2014.

Continued from Pg. 23

Williams tracking down the ball.

Were the fails of closing a game like last season about to happen again? Not this time.

As the ball was about to fall into the hands of the Ducks receiver just before the end zone, Williams leaped up to just get a piece of the ball for an incompletion – a turn around the Nebraska fans were hoping to see in 2016.

"We were in one of our base defenses, and we knew number six was a guy that they liked to get to," Williams said. "They hadn't got to him a lot that day, so we did our best to be a defense who could protect the deep ball. And I was able to make a play on the ball."

The weekday preparation paid off and the confidence grew for the whole defense after that play.

Defensive end Freedom Akinmoladun forced himself into the backfield to strip Prukop the next play. The next play after Oregon recovered the ball, linebacker Michael Rose-Ivey tackled Prukop for a short gain on fourth down for Nebraska to seal the victory.

This capped a series of three-plays the Blackshirts failed to do consistently in big moments throughout the 2015 season.

"I think the thing that meant the most to me just in this brief moment after the game is how we just stayed in and had enough about us to win the game," Head Coach Mike Riley said. "As many of you know that sat right in this room last year we had too many of these that went the wrong way a year ago. To play tough with a lot of poise and make the plays to win at the end was really good for this group of guys."

LIGHTBOURN EARNS BIG TEN FRESHMAN HONOR

Punter Caleb Lightbourn was named BIG 10 Freshman of the Week with his performance against Oregon.

Lightbourn averaged 47.2 yards on his five punts, including three punts inside the 20. The freshman set personal bests in average, punts inside the 20 and a career-long 58 yard punt in the fourth quarter.

Lightbourn said his breakthrough game was due to more preparation.

"I got a lot more confidence through



Caleb Lightbourn punts against the Wildcats on Saturday night.

that game, through that experience, and I definitely understand now that the process of the game week itself is critical," Lightbourn said. "I was much more focused throughout the week, and I feel like that prepared me better than any other time that I did."

Lightbourn grew up north of Oregon in Washougal, Washington before coming to Nebraska.

He said his high school assistant coach wasn't too happy the Huskers beat Oregon.

"It felt good to play that team and get the W against them," Lightbourn said. "One of my high school coaches used to play there, and he wasn't really pleased when we beat them, but he definitely was proud of me. It was one of those experiences where you don't really get a lot of opportunities like that, especially when you play a team that is right around where you went to high school."

PIERSON-EL'S RETURN WAS WHAT HUSKERS NEEDED

De'Mornay Pierson-El's 45-yard punt return to change momentum in the game was exactly what the Huskers have been waiting for.

After being a receiving threat on of-

fense and a key special teams performer his freshman season, he suffered a pair of knee injuries last season.

During fall camp, Pierson-El has struggled to break back into form but that punt return might have done him wonders mentally.

"I told him, hey man, if you ever wanted to make a statement, here's your time, and he said, I got you man," Armstrong said to Pierson-El before his punt return. "And he went out there and he returned it 50-something yards and got us in a position to score. And I applaud him for it, he told me he had us, and he went out there and made a guy miss and he did what he always does."

"I think it's just a confidence thing for him. He's building confidence each time he goes out there and makes a play like that, and him having surgery and things like that, being able to go out there and make a play like that, it boosts his confidence a lot more this season, of just being able to go out there and trust in himself."

Head coach Mike Riley said it was good to see glimpses of Pierson-El's old self Monday.

"De'Mornay is and had a fabulous break in as a freshman and then went through a really tough year a year ago,"



Luke McNitt and his teammates enter Ryan Field before Saturday night's game. The Huskers adapted well to the grass field.

Riley said. "A couple of big injuries, so for every step that he makes making a play, whether it's a reception or a return and to have that return, if I'm him, it's all about confidence. I think that it's a process coming back from any kind of an injury, especially a knee. So as he plays and as he makes plays, I think the more that he can put that in his rearview mirror and just play the game. It was really great for our team to get that boost at that time. It was a major play in the game."

HUSKERS PREP FOR FIRST GAME ON GRASS

The Huskers usually practice in the Hawks Center on Tuesdays and Wednesdays before practicing in Memorial Stadium on Thursdays but this week's format has changed.

In preparation for Northwestern's Kyle Field, the Huskers offense practiced on the Ed and Joyanne Gass practice fields while the defense used the grass field inside Ed Weir Track this week.

Head Coach Mike Riley said they've tried to prep the two fields to resemble the conditions of Kyle Field.

"We're going to be playing on a different surface that everybody has talked to me about," Riley said. "They've said

that it's the tallest grass you've ever seen. We've let our field grow out here as best we can, and we'll practice on the grass and try to get ready for that."

Offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf said it would be important for the Huskers to test their footing before kickoff on Saturday.

"We've been practicing on grass all week, so we're getting used to that. I think it is a little different and guys have to make sure they get their footing and get out there and pregame," Langsdorf said. "They need to check that field out making sure they're wearing the right shoes and making sure they got their feet underneath them so that they're not slipping around. It's different."

OFFENSE CONTINUES TO GO WITH HOT RUNNER

Through the first three games of the season Terrell Newby has opened the game as Nebraska's starting running back.

By the end of those three games, Devine Ozigbo has become Nebraska's featured running back.

The combination actually has been working to Nebraska's advantage. While Newby uses his speed to tired down opposing defenses in the first half, Ozigbo

comes in as the bruiser to take control of the running game in the second half.

Ozigbo leads the Huskers with 53 carries for 242 yards while Newby is third with 22 rushes for 118 yards.

Offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf said the Huskers will continue to use the one-two punch with Newby being the starter heading into Big 10 play.

"We kind of rode the hot hand in that second half and that was Devine, but both of them deserve playing time," Langsdorf said. "They give you a little bit of different style running. But I think as the game wore on and we were wearing them down a little bit, it was good to have a big, bruiser in there. I thought he ran some guys over, which was big for us."

The Huskers were in need of that big, bruiser at running back after Imani Cross graduated. Running backs coach Reggie Davis said he likes the way Ozigbo has added more physicality to fill that void.

"I like how he's added the physicality to his game," Davis said. "I really like how he's running behind his pads right now. That's something we really needed and we had to make sure we were able to fill that void once Imani left, so that was good to see."

Banner writing second book about Husker Nation

Steve Banner was born in Australia and moved throughout the world before ending up in Florida in 1993. The only thing he really knew about football was the Dolphins and Dan Marino. He didn't pay attention to college football much besides watching an occasional Florida State game.

His first encounter with Husker nation was when he met his future wife in Fort Worth, Texas in 2001. He quickly learned about her roots growing up in Omaha and her attending the University of Lincoln but didn't pay any attention to her love for Husker football.

It wasn't until his second time meeting her parents in Omaha on Labor Day weekend in 2001, when the Huskers played their second game of the season against Troy State, that he began to slowly realize the importance of Husker football in the state.

"I got up early Saturday morning to take the dogs on a walk," Banner said. "As I was about to leave my father-in-law came out of the bedroom with a red Husker shirt on and I said, 'Well Tom look at you. You getting into team spirit?'. And then he said, 'No I always wear a redshirt on gameday. Then I said, 'great that's his personal tradition,' and off I went to take the dogs for a walk."

A tradition Banner realized wasn't only his father-in-laws once he stepped out into the neighborhood.

"And then as I was walking the dogs, I saw a driver with a redshirt on and I said, 'Oh look that guy's wearing red too,' Banner said. "I couldn't wait to get back home to tell my father-in-law I saw another guy wearing a red shirt.

"Then when I saw him he said, 'everyone will be wearing red around Nebraska today,'"

Banner didn't believe that would be the case. So he took the comment with a grain of salt.

"I appreciated his loyalty and enthusiasm but I just thought he was exaggerating. That's how much of a blank page I had about Nebraska football."

After listening to his father-in-law talk about Nebraska's history, Banner decided to read about the history more.

The one thing he learned from his father-in-law and through research is Husker fans expect to win no matter what. If they didn't win their weekend was ruined.

"Again, I still didn't comprehend the

breathe of that. What that all meant," Banner said. "And then he told me there was Nebraska fans all around the country."

Banner laughed at that idea until his wife wanted to watch the games whenever they were on vacation during each season. That's when he understood exactly what his father-in-law meant by all around the country.

"We would get on the internet wherever we were at the time and sure enough there would be a Husker bar, where there is a Nebraska fan club to watch the game," Banner said. "He was right, they are all around the country. There would be people we've never seen before but immediately we had something in common. You immediately knew you could trust this person because he was a Nebraska fan."

As time went by, Banner became more and more interested in Husker football. So Banner thought it would be a great idea to attend all of the Huskers games with his father-in-law one season to see what all the fuss was about.

But before he had the opportunity to attend all the Huskers games in 2015 his father-in-law passed away.

"I figured I would bring him with me because he would be a good guy to break the ice and start conversations with people," Banner said. "Unfortunately he passed away before I ever got to do that. So when I finally did it last year, I realized as much as it would have been a wonderful thing to do it with him, you don't need anybody to start a conversation about Nebraska football. It's almost like a secret handshake. You have friends everywhere."

Throughout the course of Banner's life, he has lived in many different places in the world and seen about every kind of iconic sporting event possible, such as camel races in Saudi Arabia, Dan Marino playing for the Dolphins, a Montreal Canadiens hockey game, cricket in Australia and England and he even followed the Tour De France for three weeks in a caravan, only to publish a book about his experience.

So why Nebraska? How does a Nebraska game even compare to those experiences?

"I've seen all these sport events and I've seen all these different fans around the world but I have never seen anything like Nebraska," Banner said. "I've never seen anything like the way people are so passionate about their state and about their team."

"People always tell me, 'it's all we have. We have no other team,' I tell them if I was in Dallas and I asked 10 different people what is your favorite sporting team in the whole world? I would probably get 10 different answers. But in Nebraska I felt like I would only get one answer."

So Banner, who now lives in Los Angeles with his wife, went on to write his own book, *That Guy's Wearing Red Too!*, as he wrote about his experiences around the state during the 2015 season.

Banner visited a number of towns that were connected to his Omaha-born wife and her family across Omaha, Aurora, Kearney, Beatrice, Hooper, Nebraska City and Lincoln, while he includes chapters about the bowl game against UCLA and other Husker watch sites across the country.

Even though the Huskers struggled throughout the season, Banner said it didn't change how Nebraska fans treated one another.

"I certainly knew this wasn't a normal year and I thought it was going to be a test of Nebraska fans because they're used to winning as my father-in-law used to tell me," Banner said. "But I wasn't surprised to see the pride and how gracious they were about it because I figured that's who they are from my past experiences."

Now Banner is back in the State again in 2016 to write a sequel to his first book. Only this time, he is touring Western Nebraska to see the loyalty of Nebraska fans that don't have the opportunity to be around Lincoln on game days.

"The generosity of spirit and good-natured pride of Nebraska fans are what brought me here in the first place, and that's why I've come back again," Banner said. "I have met so many wonderful and genuine people in my travels across the State so far, and I can't wait to meet more of them as I travel further west to places like Scottsbluff and listen to their tales."

You can follow Banner's blog online at <http://www.nebraskacollegefootball.com> as he updates his experiences and interactions with Husker fans across the state throughout the 2016 season.

"The ongoing blog on my website is sure to be very interesting and entertaining as I update it every couple of days with the latest stories and pictures from around Nebraska and its interstate fan clubs," Banner said.

Hometown Huskers

Reimers makes first touchdown catch against Oregon

Story by Kevin Houck • Photo by Joe Mixan

AS THE CAMERA LIGHT shined off his face and media surrounded Bryan Reimers for a post-game interview following the Huskers victory over Oregon, players were heading out of Memorial Stadium through the same hallway after grabbing their post-game meal.

It was none other than fellow wide receiver Brandon Reilly followed by a few players chanting, 'REIMS, REIMS REIMS!', as they walked towards the overpass connecting Memorial Stadium and the Hawks Center.

The redshirt-sophomore replaced the injured Reilly against the Ducks and Reilly was the first one to congratulate Reimers in the endzone after his 22-yard touchdown catch.

"I think Brandon (Reilly) was more excited than I was after that touchdown," Reimers said. "It's great knowing everyone has each other's backs on every play."

The Lincoln East graduate wasn't looked at as a factor this season with a talented core of wide receivers returning but players say this coming out party is no surprise to the them.

"I have been saying that for the last year or so," quarterback Tommy Armstrong said. "He is a great kid. He buys into the system. Those guys believe in him and before he ever stepped foot out there on the field, I knew as soon as he got out there he was going to make a play if we threw the ball to him. He went up with a catch and he was in the end zone and it was a great thing for him."

"He has worked his tail off to get out there and make a play like that. We knew from the beginning of this season that if he had

a chance, he would go out there and make plays. That is one of the great many plays that you will see out of him."

After running the ball six consecutive times to start the third quarter, Reimers lined up along the Husker sideline. As Reimers maneuvered out of press coverage, the cornerback ducked down from Reimers go-route to cover tight end Cethan Carter.

That left space over the top for Reimer's to make a play but not before being hit by a safety as he corralled the ball into his arms.

"I knew I was going to get hit from that safety but I went up and made a play on it to be able to reach over the goalline for the touchdown," Reimers said.

The hit left the Oregon safety injured at the goalline and Reimers with ice-packs on his right knee and elbow after the game.

It was a play that every kid from Nebraska envisions growing up watching the Huskers play, especially against a team like Oregon.

"Growing up coming to these game you always dream of scoring for Nebraska and against Oregon makes it even better," Reimers said. "It's just a dream come true."

Reimer's parents have attended about every Husker game since Reimers was a kid. They have seen a lot of Husker touchdowns but this one touchdown made an impact no other one can compare to.

"They're so proud and they can't believe it's real,"

Reimers said. "I mean a few years ago they didn't think I would be in this position and to make a play like that is awesome. Being in front of them too at a home game is just incredible."

Even if they knew something along those lines was about to happen before the game.

"I told his mom on Friday we had some plays for him," offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf said. "So it was neat to see him step up and make a play."



Bryan Reimers made his first touchdown catch against Oregon.



2016 HUSKER FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location	Results
Sat, Sep 03	Fresno State	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Sep 10	Wyoming	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Sep 17	Oregon	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Sep 24	Northwestern *	at Evanston, Ill.	-
Sat, Oct 01	Illinois *	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Oct 15	Indiana *	at Bloomington, Ind.	-
Sat, Oct 22	Purdue *	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Oct 29	Wisconsin *	at Madison, Wis.	-
Sat, Nov 05	Ohio State *	at Columbus, Ohio	-
Sat, Nov 12	Minnesota *	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Nov 19	Maryland *	Memorial Stadium	-
Fri, Nov 25	Iowa *	at Iowa City, Iowa	-

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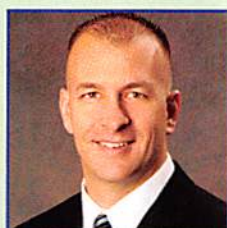
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2016 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL ROSTER

No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown	No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown
1	Lamar Jackson	DB	6-3	195	Fr.	Elk Grove, Calif. (Franklin)	41	Luke McNitt	FB	6-2	240	Jr.	Kearney, Neb. (Nebraska-Kearney)(Kearney)
1	Jordan Westerkamp	WR	6-0	200	Sr.	Lombard, Ill. (Montini Catholic)	42	Trey Foster	TE	6-2	250	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
2	Tony Butler	DB	6-2	195	Fr.	Lakewood, Ohio (St. Edward)	43	Tyrin Ferguson	LB	6-2	225	So.	New Orleans, La. (Edna Karr)
2	Zack Darlington	WR	6-2	195	So.	Apopka, Fla. (Apopka)	43	Todd Honas	WR	5-11	200	Fr.	Aurora, Neb. (Aurora)
3	Lavan Alston Jr.	WR	6-0	175	Rfr.	Oxnard, Calif. (St. Bonaventure)	44	Mitch McCann	FB	6-0	240	Sr.	Omaha, Neb. (Burke)
3	Marcus Newby	LB	6-1	235	Jr.	North Potomac, Md. (Quince Orchard)	44	Mick Stoltenberg	DL	6-5	290	So.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)
4	Avery Anderson	S	6-0	185	Rfr.	Surprise, Ariz. (Pine Creek (Colorado Springs))	45	Ty Chaffin	WR	6-5	200	Fr.	Burwell, Neb. (Burwell)
4	Tommy Armstrong Jr.	QB	6-1	220	Sr.	Cibola, Texas (Steele)	45	A.J. Natter	DE	6-5	260	Jr.	Milton, Wis. (Milton)
5	Dedrick Young II	LB	6-1	220	So.	Peoria, Ariz. (Centennial)	47	Branden Hohenstein	TE	6-4	205	Fr.	Jackson, Neb. (Bishop Heelan)
6	Eric Lee Jr.	CB	6-0	190	Rfr.	Milton, Mass. (Valor Christian (Colorado))	47	Matt Jarzynka	DE	6-4	255	So.	Loup City, Neb. (Loup City)
7	Mohamed Barry	LB	6-1	220	Rfr.	Grayson, Ga. (Grayson)	48	Erik Evans	DE	6-3	255	Jr.	Waverly, Neb. (Waverly)
8	Chris Jones	CB	6-0	185	Jr.	Jacksonville, Fla. (Sandalwood)	49	Austin Hemphill	FB	6-0	220	Rfr.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)
8	Stanley Morgan Jr.	WR	6-1	200	So.	New Orleans, La. (St. Augustine)	49	Chris Weber	LB	6-3	230	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Elkhorn)
9	DaiShon Neal	DE	6-7	270	Rfr.	Houston, Texas (Omaha Central)	50	Garret Johns	DL	6-0	285	Sr.	Aurora, Neb. (Aurora)
9	Keyan Williams	WR	5-10	195	So.	New Orleans, La. (Fresno State) (Lusher)	50	John Raridon	OL	6-4	275	Fr.	West Des Moines, Iowa (Valley)
10	Joshua Kalu	CB	6-1	190	Jr.	Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor)	51	Jared Brugmann	LB	6-2	235	Rfr.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)
10	JD Spielman	WR	5-9	180	Fr.	Eden Prairie, Minn. (Eden Prairie)	52	Josh Banderas	LB	6-3	240	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)
11	Cethan Carter	TE	6-4	240	Fr.	New Orleans, La. (Archbishop Rummel)	53	Alex Boryca	LB	6-2	220	So.	Cozad, Neb. (Cozad)
11	Boaz Joseph	CB	6-1	190	Jr.	Weston, Fla. (Cypress Bay)	54	Creighton Hamik	LB	6-3	210	Fr.	Kearney, Neb. (Kearney Catholic)
12	Luke Gifford	LB	6-3	230	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)	54	Jordan Ober	LS	6-1	205	So.	Las Vegas, Nev. (Bishop Gorman)
12	Patrick O'Brien	QB	6-4	230	Fr.	San Juan Capistrano, Calif. (San Juan Hills)	54	Robby Painter	OL	6-5	300	Sr.	Centennial, Colo. (Grandview)
13	JoJo Domann	DB	6-1	205	Fr.	Colorado Springs, Colo. (Pine Creek)	55	Kevin Maurice	DT	6-3	300	Sr.	Orlando, Fla. (Freedom)
13	Tanner Lee	QB	6-4	205	Jr.	Destrehan, La. (Tulane) (Jesuit)	56	Brad Simpson	LB	6-0	230	Sr.	Omaha, Neb. (Ralston)
14	Kyle Kasun	DB	6-0	180	Rfr.	Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-La Vista South)	56	Boe Wilson	OL	6-3	295	Fr.	Lee's Summit, Mo. (Lee's Summit West)
15	De'Mornay Pierson-El	WR	5-9	185	Jr.	Alexandria, Va. (West Potomac)	57	Jacob Weinmaster	LB	6-0	215	Rfr.	Loveland, Colo. (Loveland)
15	Michael Rose-Ivey	LB	6-0	230	Sr.	Kansas City, Mo. (Rockhurst)	58	Joel Lopez	DL	6-2	280	Jr.	Saint Charles, Ill. (Burlington Central)
16	Antonio Reed	S	6-2	220	So.	Memphis, Tenn. (Southaven (Miss.))	58	Corey Whitaker	OL	6-5	295	Sr.	Murrieta, Calif. (Vista Murrieta)
17	Ryker Fyfe	QB	6-3	215	Sr.	Grand Island, Neb. (Grand Island)	59	Brody Cleveland	LB	6-2	225	Rfr.	Ogallala, Neb. (Ogallala)
17	Sedrick King	DE	6-4	250	So.	Plant City, Fla. (Plant City)	61	Bryan Brokop	OL	6-5	275	Fr.	New Lenox, Ill. (Lincoln-Way West)
18	Tre Bryant	IB	5-11	200	Fr.	St. Louis, Mo. (Christian Brothers College)	62	Cole Conrad	OL	6-5	305	So.	Fremont, Neb. (Archbishop Bergan)
19	Marquel Dismuke	DB	6-2	180	Fr.	Calabasas, Calif. (Calabasas)	63	Tanner Farmer	OL	6-4	295	So.	Highland, Ill. (Highland)
21	Charles Jackson	DB	5-11	180	Sr.	Spring, Texas (Klein Collins)	65	Christian Gaylord	OL	6-6	300	Rfr.	Baldwin City, Kan. (Baldwin City)
21	Mikale Wilbon	IB	5-9	195	So.	Chicago, Ill. (De La Salle Institute)	66	Dylan Utter	OL	6-1	295	Sr.	Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-LaVista)
22	Alex Davis	DE	6-5	255	Rfr.	Riviera Beach, Fla. (Dwyer)	67	Jerald Foster	OL	6-3	310	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
22	Devine Ozigbo	IB	5-11	230	So.	Sachse, Texas (Sachse)	68	Nick Gates	OL	6-5	290	So.	Las Vegas, Nev. (Bishop Gorman)
23	Dicaprio Bootle	DB	5-10	180	Fr.	Miami, Fla. (Southridge)	71	Matt Farniok	OL	6-6	300	Fr.	Sioux Falls, S.D. (Washington)
23	Austin Rose	IB	6-1	225	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (North Star)	72	Zach Hannon	OL	6-5	315	Jr.	Kansas City, Mo. (Rockhurst)
24	Aaron Williams	S	5-11	185	So.	Atlanta, Ga. (Carver)	73	Sam Hahn	OL	6-7	300	Sr.	DeWitt, Neb. (No. Dakota St.)(Tri-County)
25	Nathan Gerry	S	6-2	220	Sr.	Sioux Falls, S.D. (Washington)	74	Jalin Barnett	OL	6-4	310	Rfr.	Lawton, Okla. (Lawton)
26	Thomas Connelly	LB	5-11	220	So.	Kearney, Neb. (Kearney Catholic)	75	Fyn Anderson	DL	6-3	260	Rfr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
26	Brady Pelzer	WR	5-11	185	So.	Bellevue, Neb. (Bellevue East)	76	Dwayne Johnson Jr.	OL	6-6	300	Jr.	Houston, Texas (Bellaire)
26	Jamie Sutcliffe	PK	6-2	190	Sr.	Thousand Oaks, Calif. (Utah/Pierce College)(Thousand Oaks)	76	Dylan Owen	DL	6-5	240	So.	Westchester, N.Y. (Bridgton Academy)(Somers)
26	Kieron Williams	S	6-1	195	Jr.	Shreveport, La. (Air Force Prep)(C.E. Byrd)	77	David Knevel	OL	6-9	315	Jr.	Brantford, Ontario, Canada (Pauline Johnson Collegiate)
27	Sam Foltz	P	6-2	205	Sr.	Greeley, Neb. (Grand Island)	79	Michael Decker	OL	6-4	285	Rfr.	Omaha, Neb. (North)
28	Eli Sullivan	DB	6-2	190	Fr.	Longmont, Colo. (Longmont)	80	Brett Classen	WR	6-2	205	Jr.	Medina, Minn. (Winona State)(Wayzata)
28	Adam Taylor	IB	6-2	210	Jr.	Katy, Texas (Katy)	81	Gabe Rahn	WR	6-1	195	Jr.	Le Mars, Iowa (Le Mars)
29	Nolan Graham	DB	5-11	200	So.	Firth, Neb. (Norris)	82	Alonzo Moore	WR	6-2	195	Sr.	Winnfield, La. (Winnfield Senior)
29	Graham Nabity	IB	6-1	210	Sr.	Omaha, Neb. (Elkhorn)	83	David Engelhaupt	TE	6-3	230	Fr.	Norfolk, Neb. (Norfolk Catholic)
30	Quayshon Alexander	LB	6-3	235	Fr.	Prospect Park, N.J. (De Paul Catholic)	83	Bryan Reimers	WR	6-5	210	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln East)
30	Bo Kitrell	FB	6-1	225	So.	Ashland, Neb. (Ashland-Greenwood)	84	Sam Cotton	TE	6-5	250	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
31	Greg Simmons	LB	6-2	240	Fr.	Fort Pierce, Fla. (Fort Pierce Central)	85	Matt Snyder	TE	6-5	255	Rfr.	San Ramon, Calif. (California)
31	Conor Young	WR	6-2	170	Rfr.	Cozad, Neb. (Cozad)	86	Jack Stoll	TE	6-4	235	Fr.	Lone Tree, Colo. (Regis Jesuit)
32	Tanner Hass	RB	6-0	195	Fr.	West Point, Neb. (Guardian Angels)	87	Brandon Reilly	WR	6-2	200	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)
32	Pernell Jefferson	LB	6-2	225	Fr.	New Orleans, La. (Warren Easton)	88	Ross Dzuris	DE	6-3	255	Sr.	Plattsmouth, Neb. (Plattsmouth)
33	Christian Bailey	WR	6-0	205	Jr.	San Clemente, Calif. (San Clemente)	88	Tyler Hoppes	TE	6-4	240	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Wayne St.)(Southwest)
33	Tanner Zlab	DB	5-10	195	Sr.	Wilber, Neb. (Doane)(Wilber-Clatonia)	89	Connor Ketter	TE	6-5	245	Jr.	Norfolk, Neb. (Norfolk Catholic)
34	Drew Brown	PK	5-11	195	Jr.	Southlake, Texas (Southlake Carroll)	91	Freedom Akinmoladun	DE	6-4	255	So.	Grandview, Mo. (Grandview)
34	Terrell Newby	IB	5-10	200	Sr.	Los Angeles, Calif. (Chaminade)	92	Chase Urbach	LS	6-3	200	Rfr.	Grosse Pointe, Mich. (Grosse Pointe South)
35	Caleb Lightbourn	P/PK	6-3	220	Fr.	Washougal, Wash. (Camas)	94	Khalil Davis	DT	6-2	290	Rfr.	Blue Springs, Mo. (Blue Springs)
35	Jeremiah Stovall	DB	5-11	175	Rfr.	Omaha, Neb. (Creighton Prep)	95	Spencer Lindsay	PK	5-9	210	Sr.	Kearney, Neb. (Kearney)
36	Spencer Jordan	FB	6-2	215	Fr.	Omaha, Neb. (Westside)	95	Ben Stille	DE	6-5	240	Fr.	Ashland, Neb. (Ashland-Greenwood)
36	Reid Karel	DB	6-3	205	Rfr.	Seward, Neb. (Seward)	96	Carlos Davis	DT	6-2	295	Rfr.	Blue Springs, Mo. (Blue Springs)
37	Wyatt Mazour	IB	5-9	190	Rfr.	Albion, Neb. (Boone Central)	97	Logan Rath	DT	6-4	280	Sr.	Giltner, Neb. (So. Dakota St.)(Giltner)
38	Harrison Jordan	FB	5-10	230	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Westside)	98	Isaac Armstrong	P	5-11	195	Rfr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Kearney) (Southwest)
39	Donovan McDonald	WR	5-11	175	Rfr.	Montclair, N.J. (Fork Union Military Academy)(Montclair)	98	Collin Miller	DE	6-3	235	Fr.	Fishers, Ind. (Hamilton Southeastern)
39	Jordan Nelson	IB	5-8	180	Sr.	Omaha, Neb. (Burke)	99	Peyton Newell	DT	6-3	290	So.	Hiawatha, Kan. (Hiawatha)
40	Ty Betka	WR	5-7	165	Fr.	Superior, Neb. (Drake)	Jake Kitten	OL	6-2	290	Fr.	Santee, Calif. (Santana)	
40	Grant Jordan	LB	6-2	205	Fr.	Omaha, Neb. (Westside)	Sean Lambert	IB	6-0	200	Fr.	Fremont, Neb. (Fremont)	
41	Noah Johnson	IB	6-0	210	Rfr.	Sutton, Neb. (Sutton)	Ne'Land Smith	WR	6-3	190	Fr.	Blue Springs, Mo. (Blue Springs)	



2016 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3 Murray State W, 52-3
 Sept. 10 North Carolina L, 48-23
 Sept. 17 Western Michigan L, 34-10
Oct. 1 @ Nebraska
 Oct. 8 Purdue
 Oct. 15 @ Rutgers
 Oct. 22 @ Michigan
 Oct. 29 Minnesota
 Nov. 5 Michigan State
 Nov. 12 @ Wisconsin
 Nov. 19 Iowa
 Nov. 26 @ Northwestern

2015 RESULTS (5-7, 2-6)

Kent State W, 52-3
 Western Illinois W, 44-0
 @ North Carolina L, 48-14
 Middle Tennessee W, 27-25
 Nebraska W, 14-13
 @ Iowa L, 29-20
 Wisconsin L, 24-13
 @ Penn State L, 39-0
 @ Purdue W, 48-14
 Ohio State L, 28-3
 @ Minnesota L, 32-23
 Northwestern L, 24-14

COACH LOVIE SMITH

Smith is trying his hand at the college game after 19 years in the NFL, including 11 as a head coach. The 58-year old Smith has a connection to Illinois, having been the head man of the Chicago Bears for nine seasons (2004-12). He had three division titles, two NFC Championship Game appearances and one Super Bowl berth. Prior to his professional football career, Smith cut his coaching teeth as a defensive coach from 1983 thru 1995. His stops included Tulsa, Wisconsin, Arizona State, Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio State. Given time, Smith has a good chance to turn the University of Illinois football program around into a conference contender.



Malik Turner

Story By Shane G. Gilster • Photos Courtesy of University of Illinois Athletics

Pay Back Tour Continues

Nebraska lost five games last year in the Big Ten, all to teams in the West Division. So this year NU has the added motivation to beat those same opponents.

With the win last week against Northwestern, the Huskers are 1-0 on their "Pay-back Tour." They now turn their attention to Illinois. I expect Nebraska to handle the Fighting Illini, who are in transition with a new coaching staff. Not much to talk about here as this could be one of the easier victories for the Big Red this season.

Prediction: Nebraska 48, Illinois 20

Offensive Preview

Starters Returning/Lost: 7/4

Offense: Multiple

Outlook: After scoring 52 points in their opening game against Murray State, the Illinois offense hasn't been very effective in their next two games which was against tougher competition. In those games they averaged 16.5 points.

It isn't like they don't have offensive weapons. Quarterback Wes Lunt is a viable threat to throw for 300 yards in any given game. Through three games, the senior has been very efficient throwing for 665 yards and six touchdowns. He has only thrown one interception. Lunt's main target has been Malik Turner who is averaging five catches and 74 yards per game. His three touchdown catches lead the team. The junior has great size – 6-foot-3, 205 pounds and ability to be a difference maker. The

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Fighting Illini run game hasn't been very complimentary to its passing attack.

Four different running backs have had carries, but Ke'Shawn Vaughn is their main rusher with almost 200 yards on 40 carries but Kendrick Foster is averaging 9.7 yards per carry.

Defensive Preview

Starters Returning/Lost:

4/7

Defense: 4-3

Outlook: The defense has some very good playmakers along the defensive line and linebacking corp. Linebacker Hardy Nickerson leads the team in tackles (29). The transfer from California, is the son of former NFL great and current Illinois defensive coordinator Hardy Nickerson.

Defensive ends Carroll Phillips and Dawuane Smoot are a talented duo. Phillips leads the team in tackles for loss (9) and sacks (4). Smoot had the most preseason hype of any Illinois player and is their best NFL prospect.

Special Teams Preview

Starters Returning/Lost:

2/1

Defense: 4-3

Outlook: Return specialist V'Angelo Bentley is the biggest loss from last year. He left as one of the best in school history. Kendrick Foster is the main kickoff returner with almost 24 yards per return. The kicking game is okay but hasn't been a big factor in games yet. David Reisner is averaging almost 40 yards per punt while placekicker Chase McLaughlin is perfect on extra



Hardy Nickerson

points and two of two on field goals with a long of 48.

Did You Know?

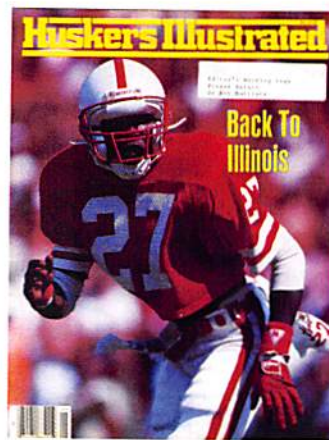
Garrick McGee, the offensive coordinator for Illinois, was a former Oklahoma quarterback. His Sooners played against Nebraska in 1994 and 1995, losing both games by a combined score of 50-3. McGee didn't have great games against those National Championship Husker teams. His stats for the two games were 21 of 47 passing for 230 yards and 4 interceptions. He ran for 38 yards on ten carries.

A Look Back

Nebraska 52, Illinois 25

Sept. 21, 1985 in Lincoln

Nebraska was smarting after their season-opening loss to Florida State. They not only got upset at home but dropped from 10th to 18th



in the national polls. So NU was ready to redeem themselves against the 20th-ranked Fighting Illini of Illinois. The Huskers wanted to get back on the winning track and both the offense and defense did their part in a solid victory.

Illinois, which was ranked one spot below Nebraska (No. 11) at the start of the season, was supposed to have a great passing combination

of quarterback Jack Trudeau and receiver David Williams. But the Blackshirts intercepted four passes, returning two for touchdowns and recovered three fumbles.

While Illinois was shooting themselves in the foot offensively, the Husker offense, despite its own mistakes, put some scoring drives together.

The star of the game for the Big Red was I-back Doug Dubose who led all rushers with 191 yards.

His 1-yard scoring leap right before halftime along with his 49-yard touchdown run at the start of the second half put the game on ice for NU.

"The biggest point of the game, maybe, was right before the half," said NU head coach Tom Osborne. "Illinois closed the gap and then we went 80 yards in about a minute. That really changed the momentum around. Then at the start of the second half, when we held them and DuBose put it in on the first play, we looked like we had the game in good shape."

Fast Facts

Location: Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

Enrollment: 44,942

First Year of football: 1890

National Championships: 5

Conference Titles: 15

Stadium: Memorial Stadium

Stadium Capacity: 60,670

Nickname: Fighting Illini

Colors: Orange and Blue

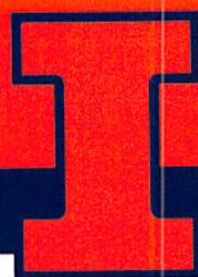
2015 Record: 5-7, 2-6

Conference: Big Ten

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ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI

2016 FOOTBALL ROSTER



No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr.	Hometown (High School)	No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr.	Hometown (High School)
1	Jaylen Dunlap	DB	6-1	190	Jr.	Chicago, Ill. (Crete-Monee)	38	David Reisner	PK/P	6-0	205	Sr.	Bartlett, Ill. (South Elgin)
2	Reggie Corbin	RB	5-10	185	R-Fr.	Upper Marlboro, Md. (Gonzaga College HS)	39	Nathan Echard	RB	6-2	235	Jr.	Eureka, Mo. (Eureka)
2	Julian Jones	LB	6-2	215	So.	Atlanta, Ga. (Westlake)	40	Mike Svetina	LB	6-2	235	Sr.	Brunswick, Ohio (St. Ignatius)
3	Taylor Barton	DB	6-1	215	Sr.	Orlando, Fla. (Lake Highland Prep)	40	Ryan Tucker	P	6-3	185	So.	Chicago, Ill. (Marist)
3	Jeff George, Jr.	QB	6-3	205	R-Fr.	Indianapolis, Ind. (Warren Central)	41	Jimmy Marchese	LB	6-2	215	R-Fr.	Vernon Hills, Ill. (Stevenson)
4	Darwyn Kelly	DB	6-1	210	Jr.	Upper Marlboro, Md. (H.D. Woodson)	42	Brandon Jones	DL	6-5	235	Fr.	Columbia, Mo. (Hickman)
4	D.J. Taylor	WR	6-0	190	Sr.	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. (University School)	43	Chase McLaughlin	PK	6-1	175	So.	Cypress, Tex. (Cypress Woods)
5	James Crawford	LB	6-2	220	Jr.	Deerfield, Fla. (St. Thomas Aquinas)	44	Drew Murtaugh	LB	6-3	210	Fr.	Crystal Lake, Ill. (Crystal Lake South)
5	Ke'Shawn Vaughn	RB	5-10	210	So.	Nashville, Tenn. (Pearl-Cohn HS)	45	Henry McGrew	DL	6-3	245	So.	Overland Park, Kan. (Blue Valley)
6	Tre Nation	RB	5-11	220	Fr.	Leeds, Ala. (Leeds)	46	Ikjot Wahi	DE	6-3	225	R-Fr.	Darien, Ill. (Hinsdale South)
6	Carroll Phillips	DL	6-3	240	Sr.	Miami, Fla. (Miami Central)	47	Sean Adesanya	DL	6-3	250	So.	Rahway, N.J. (Rahway)
7	Chayce Crouch	QB	6-4	225	So.	Newark, Ohio (Newark Catholic)	52	Ayo Shogbonyo	LB	6-2	215	Fr.	Arlington, Tex. (Mansfield Summit)
7	Caleb Day	DB	6-1	205	Sr.	Hilliard, Ohio (Hilliard Darby)	52	Adam Solomon	OL	6-5	315	R-Fr.	Indianapolis, Ind. (Bishop Chatard)
8	Dillan Cazley	DB	5-10	190	Sr.	Charleston, Ill. (Charleston)	53	Nick Allegretti	OL	6-4	315	So.	Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln-Way East)
9	Dele Harding	LB	6-1	230	Fr.	Elkton, Md. (Eastern Christian)	55	Jamal Milan	DL	6-2	300	R-Fr.	Chicago, Ill. (Al Raby HS)
9	Sam Mays	WR	6-3	200	So.	Missouri City, Texas (Kinkaid School)	56	Michael Martin	LS	6-4	225	Sr.	Champaign, Ill. (Centennial)
10	Hardy Nickerson	LB	6-0	230	Sr.	Oakland, Calif. (Bishop O'Dowd HS)	57	Austin Schmidt	OL	6-6	300	Sr.	Galena, Ohio (Olentangy)
11	Chunky Clements	DL	6-3	295	Sr.	Dayton, Ohio (Trotwood Madison)	58	Sean Mills	LS	6-3	215	Fr.	Metuchen, N.J. (St. Joseph)
11	Malik Turner	WR	6-3	205	Jr.	Springfield, Ill. (Sacred Heart-Griffin)	61	Darta Lee	OL	6-3	320	Fr.	Fresno, Texas (Hightower)
12	Chris James	DB	5-11	190	So.	Orange, Texas (West Orange-Stark)	64	Jack Broeker	OL	6-4	285	R-Fr.	Springfield, Ill. (Sacred Heart-Griffin)
12	Wes Lunt	QB	6-5	225	Sr.	Rochester, Ill. (Rochester)	65	Doug Kramer	OL	6-2	270	Fr.	Hinsdale, Ill. (Hinsdale Central)
13	Ryan Frain	P	6-2	220	Sr.	Indianapolis, Ind. (Seccina)	66	Jordan Fagan	OL	6-6	300	Jr.	Chula Vista, Calif. (Olympian)
13	Caleb Reams	TE	6-3	240	R-Fr.	Gurnee, Ill. (Warren Township)	67	Christian DiLauro	OL	6-5	300	Jr.	Uniontown, Ohio (Green)
14	Cam Miller	QB	6-1	205	Fr.	Evergreen Park, Ill. (Brother Rice)	68	Matt Long	OL	6-4	300	R-Fr.	Coal City, Ill. (Coal City)
14	Gimel President	DL	6-4	275	Sr.	Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (Wando HS)	70	Eddy Fish	OL	6-6	310	Fr.	South Boston, Mass. (Lawrence Academy)
15	M.J. McGriff	WR	5-9	190	Fr.	Vero Beach, Fla. (Vero Beach)	71	Joe Spencer	OL	6-4	300	Sr.	Mason, Ohio (Mason)
16	Rob Bain	DL	6-3	295	Sr.	Bolingbrook, Ill. (Bolingbrook)	72	Gabe Megginson	OL	6-5	300	R-Fr.	Jacksonville, Ill. (Jacksonville)
16	Zarrian Holcombe	WR	6-6	220	Fr.	Houston, Texas (Summer Creek)	73	Jake Cerny	OL	6-5	300	Fr.	Traverse City, Mich. (Traverse City West)
17	Stanley Green	DB	5-11	195	Fr.	East St. Louis, Ill. (East St. Louis Senior)	74	Connor Brennan	OL	6-5	300	Sr.	Sonoma, Calif. (Redwood)
17	James McCourt	PK	6-1	200	Fr.	Parkland, Fla. (St. Thomas Aquinas)	75	Kurt Gavin	OL	6-4	295	Fr.	Mokena, Ill. (Lincoln-Way East)
18	Mike Dudek	WR	5-11	185	So.	Naperville, Ill. (Neuqua Valley)	76	Zeke Martin	DL	6-5	290	R-Fr.	Medina, Ohio (Medina)
19	Justin Hardee	WR	6-1	200	Sr.	Cleveland, Ohio (Glenville)	78	Harry Black	OL	6-5	285	Jr.	Orlando, Fla. (Dr. Phillips)
20	Harvey Clayton Jr.	DB	6-2	195	Fr.	Miami, Fla. (Coral Reef)	79	Zach Heath	OL	6-4	300	Jr.	Penryn, Calif. (Del Oro)
21	Man Berg	WR	6-2	190	Sr.	Sherman Oaks, Calif. (La Salle)	80	Ainslie Johnson	TE	6-2	230	Sr.	Anaheim, Calif. (Servite)
21	Patrick Nelson	DB	6-0	210	R-Fr.	Chicago, Ill. (Hales Franciscan)	81	Griffin Palmer	TE	6-5	220	Fr.	St. Charles, Mo. (De Smet Jesuit)
22	Kendrick Foster	RB	5-9	200	Jr.	Peoria, Ill. (Richwoods)	82	Samuel Harlib	WR	6-0	180	Jr.	Las Vegas, Nev. (Army & Navy Academy)
23	Frank Sumpter	DB	5-10	180	R-Fr.	Cleveland, Ohio (Glenville)	83	Bobby Walker	TE	6-4	225	R-Fr.	Golf, Ill. (Loyola Academy)
24	Darius Mosely	DB	5-11	190	Sr.	O'Fallon, Ill. (O'Fallon Township)	84	Dominic Thieman	WR	6-3	190	Fr.	Wilton Manors, Fla. (St. Thomas Aquinas)
25	Trenard Davis	WR	6-0	195	R-Fr.	Boynton Beach, Fla. (American Heritage School)	85	Brandon Roberts	DL	6-3	265	Jr.	Peoria, Ill. (Richwoods)
26	Evan Jones	DB	6-2	190	Fr.	Conyers, Ga. (Salem)	85	Andrew Trainer	TE	6-7	245	Fr.	Alexandria, Va. (St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School)
27	Dre Brown	RB	5-11	205	R-Fr.	DeKalb, Ill. (DeKalb)	86	Desmond Cain	WR	5-11	185	So.	Delray Beach, Fla. (American Heritage School)
27	Ahmari Hayes	DB	6-3	200	Jr.	Davis, Calif. (Davis)	87	Tyler White	TE	6-5	255	Sr.	Kalamazoo, Mich. (Plainwell)
29	Christian Bobak	RB	6-0	190	Fr.	Hinsdale, Ill. (Hinsdale Central)	88	Zach Grant	WR	6-0	195	Sr.	Springfield, Ill. (Rochester)
30	Julian Hylton	DB	6-0	205	So.	Tinley Park, Ill. (Lincoln-Way North)	89	Andrew Davis	TE	6-6	230	Sr.	Marion, Iowa (Marion)
31	Cameron Watkins	DB	6-0	190	R-Fr.	Nashville, Tenn. (Pearl-Cohn HS)	90	Altan Aldemir	DL	6-3	230	R-Fr.	Plainsboro, N.J. (The Peddie School)
32	Justice Williams	LB	6-3	215	R-Fr.	Frisco, Texas (Wakeland)	91	Dawuane Smoot	DL	6-3	255	Sr.	Groveport, Ohio (Groveport Madison)
33	Tré Watson	LB	6-2	235	So.	Tampa, Fla. (Tampa Catholic)	94	Tito Odenigbo	DL	6-3	290	So.	Centerville, Ohio (Centerville)
34	Christion Abercrombie	LB	6-1	220	Fr.	Atlanta, Ga. (Westlake)	95	Kenyon Jackson	DL	6-0	290	Fr.	Little Rock, Ark. (Parkview Arts & Science Magnet)
35	Jake Hansen	LB	6-2	220	Fr.	Tarpon Springs, Fla. (East Lake)	96	Tymir Oliver	DL	6-4	275	Fr.	Sharon Hill, Pa. (West Philadelphia Catholic)
36	Austin Roberts	RB	6-2	230	So.	Rice Lake, Wis. (Rice Lake)							

How Nebraska's Opponents Fared in Week Four

Sept. 3

Fresno State (1-3)

Tulsa 48, Fresno State 41

After Fresno State jumped out to a 31-0 lead early in the second quarter, Tulsa scored three-straight touchdowns before halftime. Tulsa went on the outscore Fresno State 27-10 the rest of the game. Tulsa quarterback Dane Evans 18-yard rushing touchdown won the game in the second overtime. Evans finished the game with 273 passing yards, four touchdowns and an interception.

Sept. 10

Wyoming (2-2)

Eastern Michigan 27, Wyoming 24

The Cowboys jumped out to an early 17-3 lead but the Eagles stormed back. Eastern Michigan took a 20-17 lead at the end of the third quarter after blocking the Cowboys field goal attempt. Wyoming jumped back on top after a 27-yard interception return in the beginning of the fourth quarter but Eagles running back Ian Erikson's 15-yard touchdown with 1:35 left in the game gave Eastern Michigan the lead and victory.

Sept. 17

Oregon (2-2)

Colorado 41, Oregon 38

After trailing Colorado 33-17 early in the third quarter, Oregon took the lead with three-straight touchdowns to end the quarter. Colorado quarterback Steven Montez's 37-yard pass to wide receiver Bryce Bobo with 8:43 left in the fourth quarter was the lone score of the quarter and eventually the game-winning touchdown. Montez threw for 333 yards, three touchdowns and two interceptions in his first career start.

Oct. 1

Illinois (1-2)

Bye

Illinois has had a bye week to regroup after losing 34-10 to Western Michigan on Sept. 17. Western Michigan opened up with a 21-0 lead late in the second quarter and held Illinois to three yards rushing while rushing for 287 yards. Illinois quarterback Wes Lunt threw for 312 yards, a touchdown and an interception.

Oct. 15

Indiana (2-1)

Wake Forest 33, Indiana 28

Wake Forest scored 28-straight points after trailing 7-0. The Demon Deacons' defense picked off Indiana five times and blocked a field goal in the win. Indiana quarterback Richard Lagow threw for 496 yards and three touchdowns despite throwing five interceptions. The Hoosiers face Michigan State next week.

Oct. 22

Purdue (2-1)

Purdue 24, Nevada 14

Nevada scored two touchdowns on three first half turnovers by Purdue to jump out to a 14-10 lead at the half. The Boilermakers leaned on their defense to turn the game around in the second

half though. The Purdue defense held Nevada to 23 yards on 11 plays in the third quarter. Running back Markell Jones' five-yard touchdown run in the third quarter and quarterback David Blough's 51-yard touchdown pass in the fourth quarter sealed the victory. Blough threw for 300 yards and two touchdowns.

Oct. 29

Wisconsin (4-0)

Wisconsin 30, Michigan State 6

Badgers' quarterback Alex Hornibrook was impressive in his first career start. Hornibrook kept drives alive as he threw for 195 yards, a touchdown and an interception. Wisconsin's defense gave Michigan State fits all game long. Quarterback Tyler O'Connor threw three interceptions and running back LJ Scott fumbled, which led to a 66-yard fumble return for a Badgers' touchdown.

Nov. 5

Ohio State (3-0)

Bye

The Buckeyes scored early and often in their 45-24 victory over Oklahoma on Sept. 17. They entered halftime with a 35-17 lead and didn't look back. The Sooners couldn't stop the Ohio State offense. Quarterback JT Barrett threw for 152 yards and four touchdowns while running back Mike Weber ran for 123 yards on 18 carries.

Nov. 12

Minnesota (3-0)

Minnesota 31, Colorado State 24

The Gophers leaned on the running game to eventually wear the Rams down. Running back Shannon Brooks ran for 83 yards and a touchdown in his first game of the season after suffering a broken foot. Fellow running back Rodney Smith rushed for 99 yards and two touchdowns while quarterback Mitch Leidner added 50 yards and a touchdown.

Nov. 19

Maryland (3-0)

Bye

Central Florida took Maryland to double overtime but it wasn't enough as the Terrapins won 30-24 on Sept. 17. After quarterback Perry Hills left in double overtime with a shoulder injury, back up Tyrrell Pigrome took his first snap under center for 24 yards for the game-winning touchdown.

Nov. 25

Iowa (3-1)

Iowa 14, Rutgers 7

Iowa didn't have the bounce back victory they expected after losing to North Dakota State last week and Rutgers lost player making wide receiver Janarion Grant after a 76-yard catch and run with a right leg injury. CJ Beathard capped a 99-yard drive with a 36-yard touchdown pass to tight end George Kittle for Iowa's first touchdown. With the game tied, safety Brandon Snyder set Iowa's game-winning drive up by stripping Rutgers wide receiver Andre Patton with just under nine minutes left in the fourth quarter. Beathard finished with 162 yards and a touchdown.

This Week In Husker History

Sept. 26, 2009

Story by Kevin Houck • Huskers Illustrated Archives

With the 350th consecutive home sellout against Oregon and Nebraska's alternate jersey's against Northwestern, we go back to 2009 where both were combined into one.

On Sept. 26, 2009, the Huskers took the field against Louisiana-Lafayette wearing alternate uniforms in honor of the Huskers 300th consecutive home sellout.

The uniforms were to replicate what the Huskers wore in 1962, celebrating the Huskers first home sellout. After the game all uniforms were auctioned off to the public in full-uniform sets.

Nebraska's offense moved down the field at will in the game and the Blackshirts defense held the Ragin' Cajun's to less than 230 yards of total offense in their 55-0 win.

Kicker Alex Henery capped off the Huskers first drive of the game with a 29-yard field to end the Huskers 11-play, 71-yard drive.

The Huskers second drive only took three plays. Quarterback Zac Lee threw an incomplection and then running back Roy Helu rushed around the right-end for 39 yards.

On the next play, Helu fumbled trying to stretch over the goal-line but the ball was recovered in the endzone by tight end Ben Cotton for a touchdown.

Louisiana-Lafayette moved the ball into Husker territory late in the first quarter but missed a 50-yard field goal to give the Huskers back the ball for their third possession of the game.

The Huskers failed to get another first down after a 42-yard pass from Lee to wide receiver Curenski Gilleylen before being tackled at the Ragin' Cajun 25-yard line. That set up Henery with a 46-yard field goal to extend Nebraska's lead to 13-0 at the end of the first quarter.

Early in the second quarter, the Ragin' Cajuns drive was stalled with a sack from defensive end Cameron Meredith to force another punt.

A 33-yard punt return by Rex Burkhead set the Huskers up at the Louisiana-Lafayette 27-yard line.

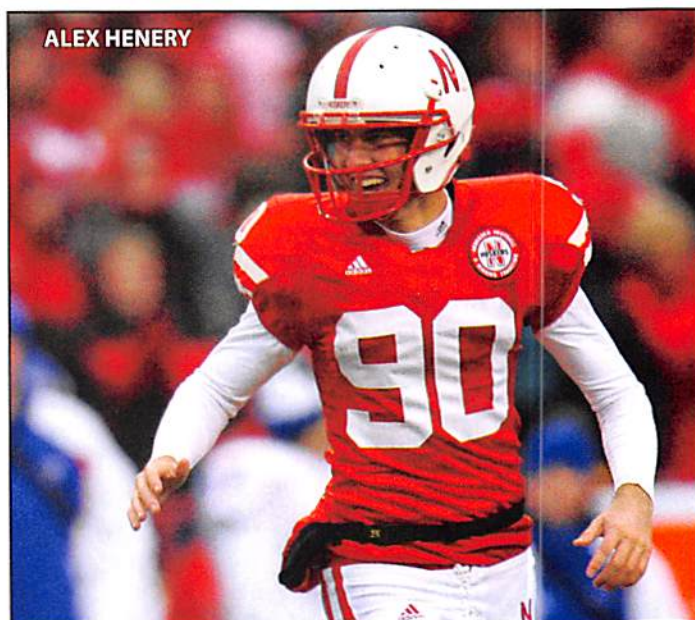
Three rushes by Helu moved the Huskers to the four-yard line before Lee found wide receiver Chris Brooks for a touchdown. Lee threw for 238 yards on 15 completions.

On the first play of Louisiana-Lafayette's next drive, they fumbled and the ball was recovered by safety Matt O'Hanlon.

Nebraska quickly responded with a 42-second drive. Helu finished the drive with a rush up the middle for a two-yard touchdown with 11:11 left in the first half. The Huskers lead stretched to 27-0.

The Ragin' Cajuns responded with their best drive of the game but the drive also came with a gut-wrenching blow for the Ragin' Cajuns.

A 12-play, 51-yard drive set the Ragin' Cajuns up at the Husker 29-yard line. On third and 10, quarterback Chris Masson threw over the middle right into the hands of safety Larry Asante. Asante returned the interception 74 yards for a touchdown. The Huskers lead stretched to 34-0 with 6:16 left in the first half.



The Huskers scored on their first-five drives of the game before punting for the first time before halftime. Nebraska went into halftime with a 34-0 lead.

The Huskers received the ball coming out of halftime and picked up right where they left off.

Helu added his second touchdown of the game to end a 10 play, 73-yard drive for the Huskers. Helu finished with 85 yards on 15 carries.

The scoring drive was set up by a 43-yard completion to Gilleylen on third and 24 conversion.

Set up by good field position, Louisiana-Lafayette moved the ball into the Husker red zone before the end of the third quarter. Safety Dejon Gomes forced the Ragin' Cajuns running back to fumble inside the 15-yard line and linebacker Sean Fisher recovered the fumble for the Huskers.

Backup quarterback Cody Green relieved Lee of his starting duties at the beginning of the fourth quarter.

In his second drive of the game, Green completed a 24-yard pass to Burkhead for a touchdown to put the Huskers up 48-0. Burkhead completed the backfields two-headed monster by adding 27 rushing yards and 26 receiving yards in relief for Helu.

Green would go on later to score again in the middle of the fourth quarter. This time, Green took the ball himself for 24 yards to tack on the Huskers last score of the game.

For those of you doing the math to see when the Huskers will have an opportunity for their 400th home consecutive sellout. It will be around the 2024 season if all goes right from now til then.



A Stroll Down Rasmussen Road With **KENT MCCLOUGHAN**

Football Player 1962-64

Column by Butch Rasmussen • Photo Courtesy of NU Media Relations

The name first started circulating through central Nebraska about 1958. When you heard the name of the town of Broken Bow (population 3,500) you heard the name of Kent McCloughan.

After finishing a magical high school career at Broken Bow High School in 1961 where he had been “all-everything” for the past couple years with football All-State honors, state track meet gold medals and high school track records that would last for decades, McCloughan (Muh-Clu-Un) passed up offers from most Big 8 schools and accepted an offer to play football at Nebraska for Bob Devaney.

He helped Devaney bring the Huskers out of the dark ages in Devaney’s first year in Lincoln as Husker football coach in 1962.

His freshman season at Nebraska consisted of some low level frosh games since freshman weren’t allowed to play varsity football but “we were mainly put out there for those varsity battering rams to have their way with us every day at practice”, McCloughan said.

The previous Husker season at Nebraska had gone 3-6-1 but there was a new coach on board, there was a buzz in the air and people were buying tickets. Everyone was looking forward to the season opener versus South Dakota then on to the big game at Michigan.

McCloughan drew a starting halfback position and after beating South Dakota 53-0 the Huskers went into the Michigan game confident and ready to play and whipped Michigan 25-13. That game set the ball rolling for a new era in Nebraska football.

The Michigan victory stimulated the thinking of a long dormant Husker football program that hadn’t won more than 6 games in a season for the past 20 years.

Devaney led his team to a 9-2 season which included a 36-34 win over Miami in the Gotham Bowl which was a story in itself.

The Huskers had been invited to meet Miami in the Gotham Bowl to be played in Yankee Stadium in New York City on December 15 but the game was a total disaster. A newspaper strike in the Big Apple hurt the publicity for the game and ticket sales hadn’t been good so the Nebraska team insisted on being paid before they left which caused a long delay at the airport in Lincoln.



KENT MCCLOUGHAN

The day of the game the weather was frigid and there were only a few over 6,000 in attendance but it was an exciting game and a two point Nebraska victory. “The field was frozen but we got used to it. We got a pretty good rush on and disturbed them enough that we were able to handle their quarterback.” McCloughan said.

“It was funny. We stayed overnight and they had dinner for us and gave us all cigarette lighters,” he chuckled. “And the fans welcomed us home the next day. You never had to win a lot of games for the fans to welcome you home,” he said.

During McCloughan’s 3 seasons with the Huskers they went 28-5 winning 2 of the 3 bowl games and dropping the third to Arkansas in 1965 by a field goal, 10-7 and McCloughan earned All-Big 8 honors at the halfback position in 1964.

After his years with the Huskers McCloughan spent 6 years in the NFL with the Oakland Raiders earning first team All-Pro

honors twice in 1966 and ‘67.

He started Super Bowl II as a cornerback for the Raiders versus the Green Bay Packers in the Orange Bowl in Miami. The Pack got the best of the Raiders that day 33-14 but McCloughan has a valuable Super Bowl ring as a cherished keepsake.

McCloughan fought through a devastating knee injury that required surgery and came back to play two more seasons as a starting defensive back before retiring at the end of the 1970 season.

After McCloughan’s football career with the Raiders ended he took a job with them as a scout and spent time on the road talking with trainers, coaches and athletes during the day while spending his evenings watching film so he could sit with the Raider brain trust during the draft to help them make the best choices.

This man of many talents received due recognition for his accomplishments in 1993 when he was recognized by induction into the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame.

McCloughan lives in Loveland, Colorado with his wife of 51 years, Elnora and they have 3 sons.

David, 49 played 4 years in the NFL and is currently working in personnel for the Raiders.

Mark, 48, is in the construction business in Loveland, building new homes.

Scot, 45, a talented baseball player was drafted by the New York Mets out of high school, played college ball at Wichita State and today is General Manager of the Washington Redskins in the NFL.

AN ALL-TIME NEBRASKA GREAT

Calvin Jones is still considered one of the best Nebraska high school and college football players of all-time



Story By Shane G. Gilster

Photos courtesy of NU Media Relations

Calvin Jones is one of the all-time greats in Nebraska high school and Husker football history, as the Omaha native set Class A high school rushing records for a game (367 yards), a season (2,196 yards) and a career (3,965 yards).

As a senior in 1989, Jones was one of the highest-recruited players ever in the state and one of the top 100 prospects in the nation. He averaged 8.4 yards per attempt, scored 22 touchdowns and was the Gatorade Circle of Champions Nebraska running back of the year. But colleges knew about Jones before his record-breaking senior season; he started getting letters from colleges during his junior year in high school.

"Recruiters always had their eye on Omaha Central because of the athletes that would always come through there," Jones said. "We had two other running backs ahead of me that year who were seniors and went on to play Division I football. Kelly Yancy went to Oklahoma State and Sherman Williams went to Iowa State."

Tennessee was one of the schools that recruited Jones the hardest. They had a running back tandem in 1989 called the "Cobb-Webb" with Reggie Cobb and Chuck Webb. They were seniors that year, and Jones was promised the opportunity to come in and play right away his freshman year.

"I really had an interest in Tennessee," Jones said. "They were the first school that showed a lot of interest in me. But I never went on a recruiting visit there, just UNLV and Nebraska."

Out of all the big-name national schools after Jones, UNLV wasn't the kind of team you would expect to be on the list for a high school All-American running back.



Calvin Jones carries the ball for Nebraska against Kansas State.

"One of my high school coaches went to UNLV, and they also had a new head coach coming in from Notre Dame who was the offensive coordinator there and recruited me. They said I could come there and start immediately and would be like Ickey Woods," Jones said.

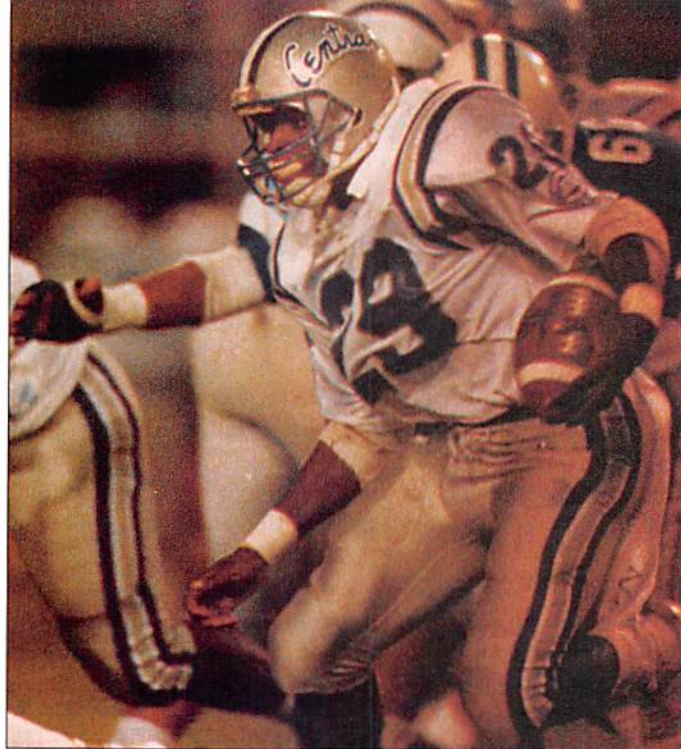
Woods played running back at UNLV and went on to star in the NFL for the Cincinnati Bengals. During his senior season, Woods became the first Rebel to win a Division I rushing title, carrying the ball for 1,658 yards and 10 touchdowns. Woods then was drafted by the Bengals in the second round of the 1988 NFL draft.

"When I went on the visit to UNLV, their

basketball team had just won the championship. When I got there they had Larry Johnson and Stacey Augmon as the hosts on my recruiting visit. After that, I was going to Vegas!" Jones laughed.

But Nebraska was always the front-runner. Not only was it his home-state school, but Jones's high school had a tradition of sending its star running backs to the Huskers. Keith Jones and Leodis Flowers were two Omaha Central standouts that were highly recruited players who starred at NU.

"The guy I idolized when I was in high school was Leodis Flowers," Jones said. "I kept in contact with him when he was at Ne-



Above left: Calvin Jones, left, and Derek Brown were referred to as the "We-Backs." Above right: Jones starred at Omaha Central.

braska. I wanted to be like him."

Family also was a key factor for Jones staying home. He was raised by his grandmother and he also had a daughter, so it would have been very difficult to relocate and play out-of-state. Jones committed to Nebraska a couple of weeks before signing day, continuing the Omaha Central pipeline.

A redshirt season wasn't something Jones envisioned heading to Lincoln, and normally a redshirt wouldn't happen for a highly-rated recruit who could help your team immediately, but Nebraska had a unique situation. Derek Brown was a top-100 national recruit who had come in the year before, but due to Prop 48 he had to sit out a year. So the coaches at Nebraska didn't feel it would be beneficial for Brown, a running back, to sit out for two years. So Jones was asked to take a redshirt.

"I didn't want to redshirt, and told Coach Solich (running back coach) that I wanted to transfer. So we had a meeting with Coach Osborne and I told him that I wanted to go to UNLV," Jones said. "Coach Osborne asked me if I knew the process...I said no. He told me that he wouldn't release me from the scholarship, which meant I would have sit out one year and then pay two years of college. He said that he knew my family and that he didn't think they could afford to pay for two years of college."

Osborne went on to say that if Jones was tired of playing football, he would keep him on scholarship and if he wanted to find a job, he would help Jones find one.

But Jones looked at Osborne and said, "Well, coach, I guess I will see you at practice," and that was that.

"Redshirting was the best thing I could have possibly done," Jones said. "I learned so much as a running back. I went against our defense every week, and those were tough practices. We had six guys on defense that year that were drafted in the NFL, two of which were top-five overall."

The 1991 season saw the 5-10, 210-pound Jones set a Husker freshman record of 900 yards rushing, despite being the second-team running back behind Brown.

Jones, who ran a low 4.4 in the 40-yard dash, also broke the Nebraska single-game rushing record, gaining a record 294 yards on 27 carries against Kansas (and also scoring an NU and Big 8 record six touchdowns).

"The longer the record stood, the more I appreciated it after college, because it was team first and you had to focus on finishing the season and getting ready for the next year, so I never had time to appreciate it when I was at Nebraska," Jones said.

But the individual run that stands out most for Jones that season came in the Oklahoma game, when he ran for 78 yards on only nine carries in the game-winning drive, helping Nebraska win 19-14. To cap off that drive, Jones ran up the middle untouched for 15 yards for the winning score.

"The lineman blocked a hole you could have driven a garbage truck through," Jones said after the game.

For his efforts, Jones was voted the Big Eight Offensive Newcomer of the Year, and earned second-team all-conference honors from the AP. For most teams, a player like Jones would become a serious Heisman Trophy candidate. But at Nebraska, Jones had

to share the backfield with Brown. In 1992, Jones and Brown became known as the "We-backs" after rushing for 2,221 yards and 18 touchdowns. Jones contributed 1,210 yards and 14 touchdowns. Both were All-Big 8 picks and split the conference's Offensive Player of the Year award. If either player had received the other's share of carries, he could have won the Heisman Trophy...and that's one of the reasons why there was tension between the two players.

"We communicated on the field, but off the field we did our own thing," Jones said. "We both wanted to be the man, and were very competitive. At the time we didn't like the 'We-back' moniker, we wanted an 'M' instead of the 'W' in the word 'We.' But now I like it because of what we accomplished together."

As a junior in 1993, Jones was a preseason All-American and Heisman Trophy candidate, but a knee injury in the first game of the season caused him to miss the next two games, thus ending any national honor opportunities. But Jones did rush for more than 1,000 yards that year, earning first-team all-conference honors for the second year in a row, even though a newcomer by the name of Lawrence Phillips came in and took carries away and looked to be the next star at I-back for Nebraska. Despite only starting 12 games in his three-year career, Jones decided it was time to move on and enter the NFL draft. It was a move that he now looks back on with some regret.

"I should have stayed at Nebraska for my senior season instead of entering after my junior year," Jones said. "The reasons I decided to leave was I was getting older already, 23, and I listened to the wrong people."



Getting to Know

Men's Senior Golfer Justin Jennings

By Kevin Houck

Q: How did you get involved with golf?

A: "Well both of my parents played college golf. My dad played for Texas Tech and my mom played for the University of Missouri, so I was kind of born into it pretty much. And their families played. So it was kind of in my blood. In the beginning, I didn't really love it until probably about the eighth or ninth grade when I really started playing seriously and kind of recognized it as my chance to play in college, maybe after college."

Q: How difficult is to take some time off in the winter? There's a break in the season between November and February. That is something you didn't have to deal with being from Texas.

A: "Yeah that was a huge transition for sure coming up here. I kind of found and especially the guys who have a hard time taking that time off, that it's necessary. I found that it helps to really work on your body in the gym and just as not much so lifting weight, which is important, but stretching and kind of be more mobile. Like building your body for golf instead of going there and lifting a lot of weight and everything. That way you can still be working on your golf game but stay indoors. Then Nebraska has the facilities where you can keep your game pretty sharp."

Q: The season starts Sept. 11 at the Badger Invitational. What things have you been working on for when that date comes?

A: "I personally am coming back from knee surgery in May and didn't get to play a single golf tournament until the first week of August. So I am just getting back into the swing of things and not really trying to get my game back but get in the tournament mindset. Everybody else is kind of trying to continue their good summer but I am pretty excited about it."

Q: You're one of two seniors on the team. How much leadership do you have to take on with the rest being all underclassmen?

A: "Yeah, I think it was interesting last year. We had one senior but he didn't travel as much so the leadership was definitely put on me and Mike Colgate. But even Mike was a transfer so even though he was older, he was kind of grouped in with the freshman, not knowing everything yet about UNL. It was put on me pretty suddenly but I enjoyed it. I love those guys."

Q: What professional golfer do you keep tabs on?

A: "Obviously growing up, I liked Tiger Woods just like any other guy around my age. But I really take a liking in Ryan Palmer because he is from Amarillo (hometown). It is easy to relate to him. It's a smaller town about the size of Lincoln. He's one of the only professional golfers to come from Amarillo and he still out there playing today. I've got phone calls from him and it just makes everything seem more real being able to watch those guys and not just watching them on TV. I root for him,

for sure."

Q: What course have you always dreamed of playing at?

A: "You have to play Augusta National. There the home of the Masters. I mean, it's the most watched tournament and that course is legendary. So many great players and great shots have been witnessed there."

Q: There was a lot of discussion before the Olympics but would you rather win the green jacket or win gold in golf at the Olympics?

A: "It's almost a toss up. Before I watched the Olympics this year I would have said green jacket without even a question but to be put in the same tier as all those amazing gymnast and track athletes. To win a gold medal and be an actual athlete would be pretty amazing and win a gold medal for your country. I think I am leaning towards the gold medal right now but if you would have asked me around the Master I would say green jacket."

Q: You have traveled to a lot of states and played many different courses throughout your career. Which one would you say is your favorite?

A: "That is the nice thing. We do go to a lot of familiar courses and they also change up from year-to-year based on who's in the field and strategic scheduling. The Big Ten match play in Florida to start off the spring, where it's freezing cold here in February, where we go to South Florida and it's in the 70's, wearing shorts and everything. It's the only match play tournament we play too, so I would have to say that is one of my favorite spots."

Q: What has it been like as a student-athlete now that you have been through it all?

A: "Coming out of high school you have no idea what it entails and all the work. Not even so much on your golf game but keeping up with school then having this full-time job as a golfer. Your time is cut very short and you have to be very committed to getting better and loving golf. If you don't, you will make yourself miserable. Luckily, I never got tired of it and I love it today but I have had a blast definitely."

Q: What are your plan for the future whether that involves golf or in marketing?

A: "It will be really nice to finish up and have that degree but I think I will start playing pro golf right after this spring when I am done with my eligibility. Then I will probably play a bit in the summer and then come back and finish up school. Maybe if my schedule allows it, but possibly play a few tournaments in the fall. I am really excited to go and play. It's something I have always dreamed of. Then if it doesn't work out then you have your marketing degree. I was also thinking of doing golf instruction at an academy for junior golfers."

Johnson's hat trick carries Huskers to 3-0 victory

Courtesy NU Media Relations • Photo by Mitch Otto

Senior Jaycie Johnson earned her second career hat trick to help Nebraska (8-4-0, 2-2-0 Big Ten) to a 3-0 win over Ohio State at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium on Friday night.

Johnson recorded the 33rd hat trick in program history, dating back to 1994. The 32nd was her four-goal performance against Southeastern Louisiana in the first round of the 2013 NCAA Tournament. All four seniors scored points for the Big Red, as Courtney Claassen, Sydney Miramontez and Caroline Flynn each earned one assist.

Johnson's goals were scored in the 29th, 37th and 60th minutes. Claassen assisted the first, Miramontez assisted the second and Flynn assisted the third. Defensively, freshman goalkeeper Aubrei Corder collected three saves and earned her fourth clean sheet of the season.

Johnson has scored a team-leading seven goals during the 2016 campaign, all of which she scored in the last six games after being held scoreless in the first five



JAYCIE JOHNSON

matches of the season. She has 38 career goals, the eighth-most in program history. Johnson earned her 14th career game-winning goal, which ranks fourth in Husker history. In addition, she earned her ninth career multiple-goal game, tied for seventh-best in NU history.

2016 Women's Soccer Schedule

8-19 Marquette	W 2-1
8-22 @ BYU L,	W, 1-0
8-26 @ Oregon	L 1-0
8-28 @ Oregon State	W, 2-1
9-2 Kansas	W, 1-0
9-4 Saint Louis	W, 2-1
9-9 Dayton	W, 3-1
9-11 @ Clemson	L, 5-2
9-16 Michigan State	W, 2-0
9-18 Michigan	L, 2-1
9-23 @ Ohio State	W, 3-0
9-25 @ Penn State	L, 2-1
9-30 Indiana	
10-6 @ Wisconsin	
10-9 @ Minnesota	
10-13 Illinois	
10-16 Northwestern	
10-22 @ Rutgers	
10-26 Iowa	
10-30 Big Ten Tournament	
11-4 Big Ten Tournament	
11-6 Big Ten Tournament	

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'COACH JUSTINE'

Wong-Orantes someday wants to coach, but she may have long playing career first

Story by Bob Hamar • Portrait Photo by Mitch Otto, Action photos by Reggie Ryder

John Cook wasn't sure Justine Wong-Orantes was going to make it after her freshman season at Nebraska.

She played in all 32 matches that year and led the team with 399 digs, but Cook didn't know she had what it takes in the back row to get the Huskers to where they wanted to be.

"After her freshman year, we were trying to find another libero because we didn't think she could get it done," Cook said.

Fast forward three years, Wong-Orantes has gotten it done so well that Cook now says she's right at the top of the list of all the liberos he's had at Nebraska. Last season she had 555 digs -- the third most in school history -- during the Huskers' run to the national championship.

For her career, Wong-Orantes stood third on Nebraska's all-time list for digs with 1,523 heading into Big Ten play, just 45 behind second-place Jennifer Saleaumua with 1,568 and within striking distance of all-time leader Kayla Banwarth with 1,706.

Banwarth went on to help the U.S. Olympic team to a bronze medal in the Olympics this past summer.

"I think Justine is better than Kayla was at this stage in their careers here at Nebraska," Cook said. "If she's not better, she's very close."

Cook said Wong-Orantes could end up on the U.S. National Team if she wants to do it. Wong-Orantes is just focused on the Huskers for now.

"I hope to continue to grow as a player," she said. "For me this year, it's just making sure my teammates around me are getting better. I want to grow as a leader because I know what it takes to win a national championship and to play a part in Nebraska volleyball."

That's another part of Wong-Orantes' game that Cook said shouldn't be overlooked.

She has been a leader for the Huskers since she joined the program out of Los Alamitos High School in Cypress, Calif. She was even elected as a captain going into her sophomore year on a vote of her team-

mates.

But Wong-Orantes said she had to develop her leadership abilities.

"It's been a learning process," Wong-Orantes said. "I think before my time here, just being a setter kind of allowed me to do that naturally. That definitely gave me an advantage being a leader. But I've just been learning a ton, whether from my teammates or coaches, it's been a whole learning process."

That leadership ability has continued to grow during her career at Nebraska.

"She's our on-the-court leader," Cook said. "When she was gone for a couple of matches last year you could really tell the difference."

Wong-Orantes' defensive abilities show up in the Huskers' hitting percentage. Nebraska was at a Big Ten-best .349 as a team heading into the conference season.

Cook has said the back row defense and passing -- led by Wong-Orantes -- is the main reason for the success of the offense.

"I take big pride in that because we're the ones who allow the hitters and the setters to make a good play," Wong-Orantes said. "Coach always says, 'Dig or pass makes the kill,' so we take great pride in that. We want to see our hitters execute."

"When we get a good dig and see them make a tremendous dig it makes us go crazy because we feel like we started that."

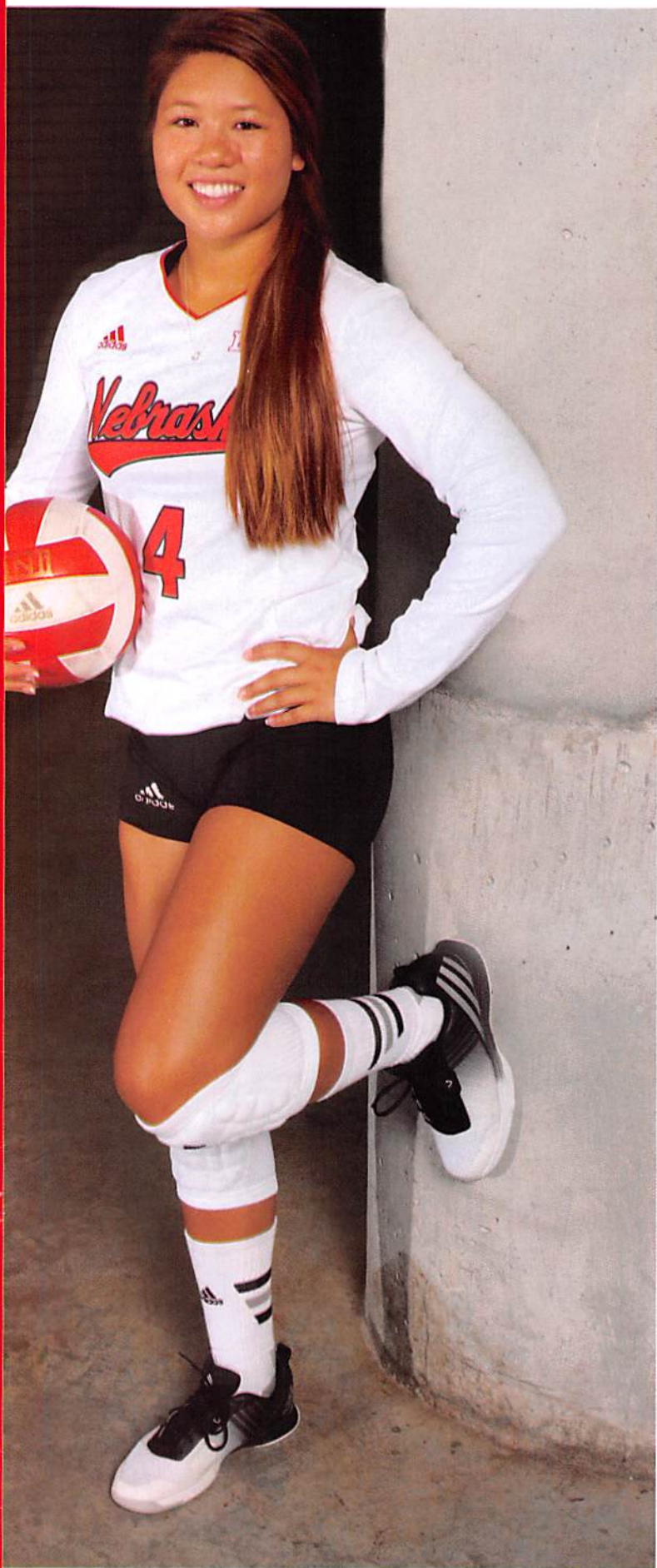
Eventually Wong-Orantes may be interested in coaching after the playing career is over. Cook said she's headed in that direction.

"I call her now 'Coach Justine' in practice," Cook said. "Sometimes when we're going over why we do things and why other teams do things, I say 'Justine, I'm just talking to you because you want to be a coach. I don't care if anybody else listens. I'm just sharing this with you.'"

"We have our private conversations amongst the team right there."

"I think Justine is better than Kayla was at this stage in their careers here at Nebraska. If she's not better, she's very close."

Nebraska volleyball coach John Cook



Left: Senior libero Justine Wong-Orantes poses for a picture before the season. Above and below: Wong-Orantes focuses during the Creighton match.



2016 Schedule

VERT Challenge at Eugene, Oregon

Aug. 26 Florida W, 3-1
Aug. 27 Texas W, 3-0

Nebraska Invite at Lincoln, Nebraska

Sept. 2 Iowa State W, 3-0
Sept. 3 Oregon State W, 3-0

Lobo Classic at Albuquerque, N.M.

Sept. 8 Montreal (Exh.) W, 3-0
Sept. 9 Arkansas W, 3-0
Sept. 10 New Mexico W, 3-0

Ameritas Challenge at Devaney Center

Sept. 16 Montana State W, 3-0
Sept. 16 Gonzaga W, 3-0
Sept. 17 Creighton W, 3-1

Sept. 23 at Michigan W, 3-0
Sept. 24 at Mich. State W, 3-2
Sept. 28 at Illinois 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 1 Ohio State 7 p.m.
Oct. 7 Indiana 7 p.m.
Oct. 9 Purdue 2 p.m.
Oct. 14 at Ohio State 5 p.m.
Oct. 16 at Maryland Noon
Oct. 21 Wisconsin 8 p.m.
Oct. 23 Minnesota 1 p.m.
Oct. 28 Illinois 6 p.m.
Oct. 29 Northwestern 7 p.m.
Nov. 4 at Penn State 7 p.m.
Nov. 5 at Rutgers 6 p.m.
Nov. 9 Iowa 6 p.m.
Nov. 12 at Indiana 6 p.m.
Nov. 16 Penn State 7 p.m.
Nov. 19 at Iowa 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 23 at Minnesota 8 p.m.
Nov. 26 Michigan 7 p.m.
Dec. 1-3 NCAA 1st, 2nd Rds TBD
Dec. 9-10 NCAA Regionals - TBD
Dec. 15 NCAA Semis at Columbus
Dec. 17 NCAA Finals at Columbus

DREAMING BIGGER



NEBRASKA VOLLEYBALL NOTEBOOK

Compiled by Bob Hamar • Photo by Reggie Ryder

HOT HITTING HUSKERS

You won't find many individual Husker players in the Big Ten leaders for attack percentage. Heading into play the Huskers' top attacker was Briana Holman at .365, and she was 12th in the conference. Teammate Mikaela Foecke was 14th at .358, which is very high for an outside hitter.

But check those team statistics. The Huskers not only led the Big Ten but the entire nation at .349 during non-conference play.

That's because they also had Amber Rolfzen at .353, Kadie Rolfzen at .310 and Andie Malloy at .286. Olivia Boender was hitting .690 in limited action and setter Kelly Hunter was at .515.

Nebraska coach John Cook has credited great back row play with setting up the offense. An attacking mentality also helps.

He wants his players hitting hard most of the time. The roll shot should only be used sparingly and in the right situations. Cook saw that in play during the Ameritas Players' Challenge.

"Our mentality is to attack," he said. "We always want to attack and pressure. When you roll shot a libero, they're going to make you pay. Montana State you can't get away with that. You can roll shot the libero and still win the rally. Against Creighton and the good teams, you roll shot the libero, somebody will ram it back down your throat. That's why we always want to be on the attack."

REPLAY IN VOLLEYBALL

Some schools are using replay for their home volleyball matches. Nebraska is one of those, but Cook said he wasn't yet sure how many other Big Ten schools would be using it.

Replays were prevalent in the match against Creighton on Sept. 17. Creighton challenged three calls and the Huskers challenged two.

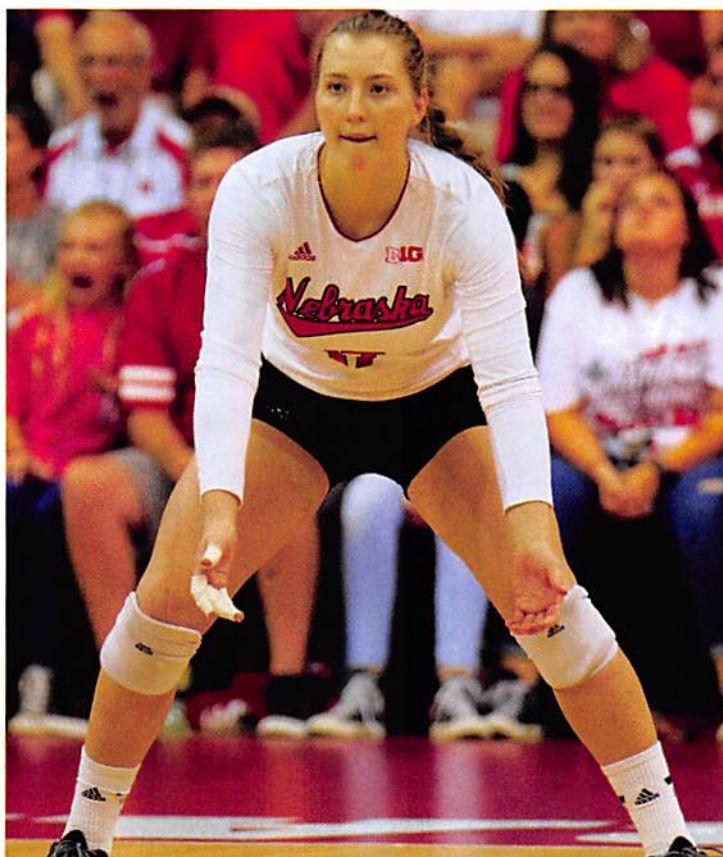
At one point, the Huskers challenged when they thought a Creighton back row player had touched an attack. The official asked Cook if they were challenging for a touch, and he said

yes.

Because they were challenging for a touch, officials had to look for a touch both at the net by the blocker and in the back row.

There was a long delay before a decision was reached.

"I just think they take too much figuring it out. Put it on the big screen and let the crowd go thumbs up, thumbs down," Cook joked. "Those refs take forever. I think there should be a time limit. Make a decision, let's go."



Annika Albrecht prepares for the ball against Creighton earlier this season.

2015 ROAD WARRIORS

The jury is still out for 2016, but Cook said he thought the Huskers were a better road team than home team a year ago.

The Huskers were 17-3 overall in the Big Ten with an 8-2 mark at home and a 9-1 record on the road. Their only conference road loss was a 3-2 decision at Ohio State.

"I thought we played better on the road than we did at home," Cook said. "I think there are so many distractions playing (at Devaney). It's kind of like the bunker mentality. We're all in the foxhole together and let's go do this. I think they feel a little freer on the road. I think they embrace the challenge of playing on the road."

BIG TEN SUCCESS

There were eight Big Ten teams in the AVCA Top 25 on Sept. 19, including four in the top 10. Nebraska led the way as a unanimous No. 1 with Minnesota second and Wisconsin third. Purdue was also rated 10th.

It's a grind night in and night out, but there is one big advantage to playing in the toughest conference in the nation.

"It helps prepare you for the NCAA Tournament," Cook said. "You have to go in and play great volleyball every night. And we're not even talking about Penn State. I mean who wants to go to Penn State and play there. They're not even in the conversation right now, but that shows you how strong this conference is."

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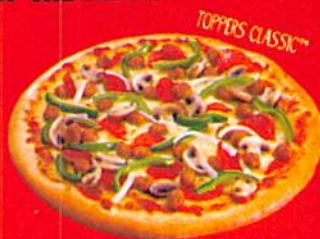
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